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Lebanon

It is "not necessary" for Syria to intervene militarily in the southern suburb, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati stated in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo after meeting with Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an. Voice of Lebanon radio cited Besharati's remark that deploying the Syrian forces "will not solve the problem of the suburb but will complicate it." Iran is working to consolidate the cease-fire, he added, and the Syrians have agreed to help in this matter.

For Syria's part, Kan'an confirmed that agreement was reached to reactivate cease-fire efforts through the four-member committee, and he stressed that both Iran and Syria are "serious" in seeking all ways to end the fighting, according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio. The quadripartite committee subsequently met at a Beirut hotel and agreed on a "comprehensive and final" cease-fire, Beirut radio reported, noting that any violation of the agreement will be regarded as directed against the Syrian forces.

Despite Besharati's statements in Beirut, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri announced that he has been assured by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that Syria will enter the southern suburb, though it will give all opportunities to political negotiations so as to avoid any security incident during the deployment. Birri's remarks, cited by the Voice of Lebanon, were made after his return from a meeting with Al-Asad in Damascus. Renewed support for Syria's deployment in the suburb was expressed by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, who declared that "any other solution would mean a continuation of the tragedy," according to Voice of National Resistance radio.

Clashes continued between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in the southern suburb 17 May, leaving 5 killed and 35 wounded, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon stated. The two sides exchanged intensive artillery fire. In the south, support for Amal, Birri, and the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council was expressed by a "massive" demonstration in Tyre, and by "popular delegations" in Al-Nabatiyah, according to Beirut radio.

On the whereabouts of the foreign hostages, a Syrian source told the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD that Syrian intelligence has information that hostages are being held in the basement of a public garden in the suburb, MENA reported. Kuwait's AL-ANBA' stated that all the U.S. hostages have been transferred to the Iranian Embassy, according to KUNA.

Iran-Iraq War

Iran launched a new offensive in northeastern Iraq the night of 17 May in retaliation for recent Iraqi "mischiefs," IRNA announced. The "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-6" operations were launched in heights between Mawat and the Dukan Dam, IRNA said, adding that Iranian forces inflicted 1,300 casualties and advanced toward Dukan.

Iraqi aircraft had earlier dropped chemical bombs on three Iranian villages in Azarbayjan Bakhtari Province, injuring over 60 civilians, according to IRNA. However, an Iraqi spokesman denied that the Iraqi Air Force bombed residential areas in Iran, INA noted. An Iraqi communique carried by Baghdad radio said Iraqi planes attacked two Iranian Hawk missile batteries on the northern front.

In the southern Gulf, three Iranian gunboats attacked a Panamanian-flagged vessel 18 May, setting it on fire, Abu Dhabi radio reported. On the results of earlier Iraqi action, a Lloyds report noted that the target of a 16 May Iraqi air strike was an Iranian tanker which was set on fire, according to Baghdad radio. Ten crewmen were wounded. Lloyds also disclosed that the "Seawise Giant," the world's largest supertanker, will be sold as scrap after being hit in the 14 May raid at Larak Island, Voice of the Masses noted. Another victim of that raid, the Spanish tanker "Barcelona," was rocked by an explosion while being towed by tugs, Madrid radio revealed. Explosions also took place on the tugs, and seven people were reported missing.

In a speech carried by Tehran radio, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i reaffirmed Iran's stand that "if the Islamic Republic is unable to export oil through the Persian Gulf, there will be no way for any other country to export oil through the Persian Gulf."

Iran

"The best prayer for the U.S. President and his lackeys such as Saddam is to beseech God to give them death," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni asserted in an 'Id al-Fitr speech broadcast by Tehran radio. Death would be a "blessing" for them as the longer they stay alive and commit sins, the worse will be their eventual torment in hell, he maintained.

On internal differences in Iran, Khomeyni denied that the Islamic regime is divided into two factions, though he acknowledged that "there are two ways of thinking and so it should be." He said there should be different tastes and opinions, discussions and debates with a "loud exchange of views," but the different groups should remain friends and not become hostile. "Satans" tried to create discord and division during the Majlis elections, Khomeyni asserted, but "they did not succeed."

President Khamene'i also commented on the elections in a speech carried by the radio, noting that "some harsh words were said by certain candidates and their followers." The arguments should end now that the elections are over, he added, and winners should treat losers with "kindness and sincerity."

Israel

Infiltration From Jordan—One "terrorist" was captured while two others fled back into Jordanian territory when the IDF foiled an attempt to infiltrate into northern Israel the night of 17 May, Jerusalem radio reported. The incident occurred near Kefar Ruppin, in the Bet She'an Valley, the radio said, noting that the captured terrorist was wounded in an exchange of fire with an IDF patrol. Asked by the radio about Jordan's failure to prevent the infiltration, Major General 'Amran Mitzna' said the Jordanians are still trying their best to stop such crossings.

West Bank, Arrests—One Arab was killed and 10 others wounded by IDF fire during a riot in a village in the Ramallah district 18 May, Jerusalem radio reported. One injured woman is in critical condition. The radio noted earlier that the authorities have arrested the publisher of DEREKH HANITZOTZ, as well as the head of biology at Bethlehem College. Meanwhile, two soldiers who were jailed for burying Arabs alive with sand had their sentences halved, IDF radio noted.

Political Comment—In an interview with IDF radio, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated that a document given him by the Soviet ambassador to Washington contains "important changes." Sources in Peres' entourage likewise viewed the document as evidence of "new flexibility" on the USSR's part, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the Soviets are not insisting that an international conference have "coercive" powers, and nor do they insist that the conference convene frequently during the negotiations between the sides.

Concern about the buildup of medium-range missiles in the Middle East was expressed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Israel must respond by maintaining its deterrent power, and if necessary, it must "preempt" threats to its security, he asserted.

Egypt

According to an AL-AHRAM report cited by AFP, some 80 people were injured, including 28 policemen, when security forces in Cairo clashed with Muslim fundamentalists 16 May. Police arrested 10 of the Muslims, who were contesting a government ruling on the date of 'Id al-Fitr. In other incidents, 85 "extremists" were taken into custody for distributing leaflets advocating "jihad," and a number of taxi drivers protesting a rise in fuel prices were detained, the paper noted.

Sudan-Ethiopia

The Sudan-Ethiopia joint technical committee meeting in Khartoum agreed to recommend that "hostile" propaganda campaigns be halted and that restrictions on diplomatic personnel and citizens be lifted, Addis Ababa radio reported. The committee also proposed that measures be taken in favor of bilateral cooperation in various areas. Nine Ethiopian technicians who had Been detained in Sudan returned home with their country's delegation, the radio noted.

Maghreb Affairs

A Polisario communique expressed "satisfaction over any gesture likely to promote trust" in the Maghreb, Paris radio reported, noting that the communique did not specifically mention the recent restoration of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco. The communique reaffirmed the Polisario's support for the UN-OAU peace plan and reiterated the need for the recognition of Western Sahara.

It was also announced that 20 Moroccan soldiers were killed when Polisario forces overran a position along the sixth wall in the south on 16 May, the radio added.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on Al-Wazir, Other Issues

NC1005190588 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 May 88

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Lebanese magazine AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, published in its "last issue," No 574; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] We notice you are reading something. Is it a pamphlet or a statement?

['Arafat] This is an appeal that will be published on Monday.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] What is this appeal? Are these your instructions to the uprising in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] The appeals are issued by the Unified Leadership.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Who is it made up of today?

['Arafat] It is formed in the same way the PLO is formed.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Militarily and politically?

['Arafat] Let us keep away from this argument. Our brothers represent the Palestinian parties present in the PLO, from the Communist Party to the Islamic tendencies groups, Fatah, the DFLP, the PFLP, and the Arab front.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] How did you feel the day you were told of the martyrdom of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]?

['Arafat] It is difficult for one to describe this feeling. For us, Abu Jihad was not an ordinary leader, but a devoted leader in his revolution and for his people. I call him the symbolic leader. His loss is great and irretrievable.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] What do you mean by great and irretrievable?

['Arafat] Abu Jihad was a great institution. He moved not as a leader but as a mobile institution.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] You know that you are threatened daily with such actions. Have you taken precautions?

['Arafat] We take precautions. Abu Jihad, God bless his soul, used to provide information from the occupied territories telling us to be on our guard and vigilant.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Do you think there was some kind of a security lapse that led to the success of this operation?

['Arafat] It was his fate, God have mercy on his soul. Abu Jihad used to reject, for example, riding in armored cars. He did not even use his armored car. He had guards, but he did not keep the guards with him in his home at night. He kept only an old man, his assistant and driver, who was present by chance. He considered protection ostentatious and avoided all ostentatious matters. Also, Tunisia was not his headquarters; he was only visiting there. His headquarters, like mine, was in Baghdad.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Do you think there was a landing operation, as has been reported?

['Arafat] I will give you the details that I have received on the operation: The group came in the normal way. It was joined by a strike force that came from the sea. They were aboard a warship anchored off European islands for a full week. A warship cannot be present in the Mediterranean Sea in an area where U.S. forces are deployed without its identity being known or without the protection or approval of the Amercians.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Do you believe there was U.S.-Israeli coordination in the strike?

['Arafat] The issue is not only one of coordination, but of prior U.S. approval for killing Abu Jihad.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Are you accusing the United States of killing Abu Jihad?

['Arafat] No. The operation was a joint one, as I told you. Can anyone believe that a warship can anchor for a full week without the approval of the U.S. 6th Fleet? Can a plane fly—as the Italian air control has proved—for 3 hours in the area without the approval of the U.S. 6th Fleet? It was exactly like what happened in the Hammam al-Shatt operation [the Israeli attack on PLO headquarters in Tunis in 1986]. The operation was only carried out with U.S. approval, an American green light, and American help and planning.

When we exposed these things, they said at the time that McFarlane had done them all. Remember? They then said it was Pollard. We asked them who gave the satellite photos and information. When Pollard was exposed, they said he was the spy who gave the information. The same thing will happen in the Abu Jihad case.

God knows who in the U.S. Administration will be the fall guy. He will resign. This operation was carried out by an Israeli decision and with the approval and green light of the U.S. Administration.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] What is the alternative after Abu Jihad?

['Arafat] The pride of this revolution is that both cadres and leaders are being martyred.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] And the revolution has not fallen?

['Arafat] It has not fallen. The two Kamals [Kamal 'Udwan and Kamal Nasir] and Abu Yusuf [Yusuf al-Najjar] were martyred in Beirut. The revolution continued. Majid Abu Sharar, 'Abd al-Fattah, Al-Qudsi, Nazzal, Abu al-Walid, Abu 'Ali Jad, and Munzir Abu Ghazalah were all martyred, but the revolution continued. Two heroes from our military command, Marwan Hammadah and Abu Hasan, were martyred, but the revolution continued. There was the Shatila and the Sabra camp massacres. The march is one of martyrs. We are walking the Via Dolorosa, the road to the sepulchre.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Do you believe that the assassination of Abu Jihad will make you retract the Cairo Declaration?

['Arafat] I will not answer this question.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] That is?

['Arafat] I will not answer this now.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] We have to wait to know?

['Arafat] I will not answer today.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] What about the response to the Abu Jihad operation?

['Arafat] There are heroes behind Abu Jihad who have sworn that his blood will not be in vain.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Will the response be inside or outside the occupied territories? Will it be anywhere near the level of the Israeli operation?

['Arafat] A person who wants to act does not speak.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] That is, anything is possible?

['Arafat] It will be decided by the brothers, the soldiers, and Abu Jihad's companions. Then one can talk.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Are you content there will be a response in the near future?

['Arafat] We agreed not to talk about this subject.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Let us talk about the West Bank uprising. There is mystery about it.

['Arafat] Mystery?

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Yes. Some media are saying that some international intelligence agencies, particularly the American ones, are stirring up the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to pressure Israel.

['Arafat] Et tu Brutus?

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Some...

['Arafat] Et tu Brutus? Are not the Gulf media, the Israeli media, and some of the U.S. media enough? Now you come to ask me?

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] We are seeking clarifications.

['Arafat] Is not Abu Jihad's blood enough? Does the Fatah Central Committee have to prove to you who is behind the uprising? Is not Abu Jihad enough? God forgive you, Jubran [magazine editor].

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Do you consider...

['Arafat] There was talk. It was said the uprising was a Khomeyniite one.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Was not the claim that the uprising is a Khomeynite one an Israeli invention?

['Arafat] Indeed. It was an Israeli invention meant to scare the Arabs, Europeans, and Soviets. These groups were then surprised when the Palestinian Christian churches decided to cancel Christmas and New Year celebrations. They then canceled Easter celebrations. Was this done on the orders of Khomeyni?

There are 2 main days of the week for the uprising: Friday, when our Christian brothers wait for their Muslim brothers to finish the prayers and the earth then explodes in fire and sparks; and Sunday, when our Muslim kinsmen wait for their Christian brothers, so they can go out together and set the earth on fire. Can this be done on Khomeyni's intimation? As the Egyptian proverb says: They found no defect in the rose so they asked the red-cheeked person do you know it? [sentence as heard]

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] There was shooting during the demonstrations in the West Bank, but you had asked that there should be no shooting.

['Arafat] Where did this happen? In Bethlehem? This could not be on the orders of Khomeyni.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Why did you order the non-use of weapons? Has not the time come for it yet?

['Arafat] Without a doubt, the time for weapons has not yet come. There are three stages in our plans. Three stages have passed and there remain three others.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] What are these stages that have passed?

['Arafat] The first stage was breaking the wall of fear. Then there was the stage of steadfastness and perseverance. The third was organization, organization, organization. All the cadres are now organized within revolutionary popular committees. These are the basis for the continuation of the uprising.

We are also coming to the stage of partial strikes, the current stage, to be followed by a general strike. Next will come the stage of partial civil disobedience and then all-out civil disobedience. Then another stage comes, but I will not talk about it now.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] What timescale are you giving for the implementation of these stages?

['Arafat] How long would you like it to be?

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] I mean, have you drawn up a timetable?

['Arafat] Certainly. We have drawn up a long-term timetable. I am always telling my kinsmen, my people, our children, women and men that Sabra and Shatila are our (?criterion). You know what Sabra and Shatila are. An area measuring 500 meters by 400 meters stood fast for 3 years, despite massacres, sieges, shelling, starvation, and thirst. Diseases spread there. A religious ruling was passed permitting people to eat human flesh. They did not capitulate. This is the Palestinian (?criterion) from which we will not deviate.

I will tell you something else: Attempts were made to thwart the Arab summit which was supposed to be held before Ramadan. Some people thought that thwarting the Arab summit would cause problems for the Palestinians. Also, they wanted to give Shultz an opportunity. I told them one thing only.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Them? Who?

['Arafat] Some of the Arab countries. That is why the Arab summit was delayed. The foreign ministers met and agreed to hold the summit during the first week of June in Algiers on the invitation of the Algerian president.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Do you think the summit will be held?

['Arafat] Yes, God willing. In a speech I made in Qatar I said some Arab brothers are mistaken if they believe that postponing the summit will end the uprising. If they want to postpone the summit until September, then I agree, but the uprising will continue. It will continue even if they want the summit to be held in December. It will continue even if they hold the summit next year.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Until?

['Arafat] Until the termination of the Israeli occupation. Wave after wave until the termination of the Israeli occupation.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] How do you explain the phenomenon of the uprising. Why at this particular time?

['Arafat] You must know that the current wave of the uprising is the all-embracing and constant one. The waves of the uprising began on 24 October 1986, when we asked our people in the occupied territories to act and demonstrate in support of their besieged brothers in Sabra, Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, Al-Rashidiyah, Al-Miyah wa Miyah, and 'Ayn al-Hulwah, as you remember, when eating human flesh was allowed. Demonstrations erupted and never stopped from that time. There were successive waves. For example, universities closed their doors last year for 2 to 6 months.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Why the timing of the uprising today? Why this year in particular?

['Arafat] I told you.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] How did you choose the timing?

['Arafat] We must first know the circumstances. The first wave of our people's (?epic) started in 1986. We must remember what took place in Gaza in the early seventies, before the October 1973 war, when a violent clash erupted between us and the Israeli forces. The Israelis pulled down the camps and built wide streets inside them to facilitate the quick passage of Israeli armored vehicles. That was an epic in Palestinian-Israeli clashes.

But these recent waves that began in late 1986 continued intermittently in 1987 in the Al-Duhayshah camp, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Balatah camp, the Galilee, Hebron, Rafah, and Gaza. You remember all this. These events were transient and did not enjoy continuity. They lasted for days and then abated. There was no Arab interest in what was taking place.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Do you think there is real Arab support for this uprising and that it is getting sufficient interest?

['Arafat] Arab support has started to arrive, but it is still below par.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] In your view, why is this?

['Arafat] I must remind you of what Vernon Walters said in his famous, ominous statement: We must dry up the PLO's financial resources. We must understand this statement and the existing U.S. pressures aimed at preventing this uprising from continuing. That is why we waited a long time before Arab support materialized. It has started now and we hope it will continue. Matters began to improve last month. We

realized that this could happen and decided on what we call familial integration: Every three families abroad will sustain one family living under the occupation.

I can say very proudly that between 20 and 25 percent of this program has been carried out. It is no coincidence that estate owners in our occupied territories have announced they will not collect any income from their possessions, either from shops or houses. This is part of the contribution to familial integration. In fact, our statement No 15 points this out: The uprising has created a new shape for our economic, social, and daily lives, a shape based on the fact that the uprising is a protracted and continuing revolutionary process.

This process is not devoid of difficulties, sacrifices, and destitution, but it is proud of the achievements that have entrenched the unity of struggle among the various sectors of our people and their national forces. This unity is manifested in the widespread solidarity among the popular committees, the strike groups, and the protection units, and in the large-scale move to the soil, the establishment of cooperatives, and the unprecedented social integration. These are splendid.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] What is the Soviet Union's stand on the uprising?

['Arafat] It is sufficient for me to refer to what Comrade Gorbachev said about the uprising during my recent visit. He stated that they consider the uprising an epic, democratic action and a form of democratic resistance with a new method in resisting occupation. During a dinner banquet held in honor of the Palestinian delegation, Comrade Shevardnadze spoke poetically of the uprising; indeed, he recited verses by a famous Soviet poet to praise it.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] You were satisfied with your visit to Moscow?

['Arafat] Very much. It is not true that he [Gorbachev] told me they recognize Israel. [sentence as heard]

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] I have not asked you yet about the talk pertaining to the recognition of Israel. How true is it?

['Arafat] Absolutely not, they did not recognize it there. [sentence as heard] It is a progressive Soviet stand. In the past, the Soviets voted for Resolution 242 and for the establishment of the State of Israel. They recognize Israel. In the past they cited only Resolution 242. Now, however, they are saying for the first time that they support all the UN resolutions, including 242. Resolutions 242 and 338 are merely concerned with resolving the geographical issue with the Arab countries.

However, the resolution of the regional, national issue of the Palestinian people must be based on all relevant UN resolutions, including 242, and it must be founded on the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. The Palestinian people have highlighted these rights, which include the right to self-determination. The Palestinian people have the right to self-determination just as the Israeli people have enjoyed this right. The Palestinian people also have the right to national independence, just as Israel has enjoyed this right.

For this reason, the USSR has made a progressive and important step in this direction. It did not ask me to recognize Israel. Rather, it is telling the West: Just as you recognize Israel, recognize the Palestinian people. Just as you recognized the State of Israel, you must recognize a Palestinian state. Just as you recognize the Israeli people's right to self-determination, you must recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination. This is a progressive and important step.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Can this step, which comes on the eve of the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting, and the positive climate characterizing the U.S.-USSR relationship, lead to the holding of an international conference soon?

['Arafat] There is agreement on holding an international conference. The disagreements, however, are about the authority which such a conference will have and who will attend it. We and our Soviet friends believe that an effective international conference must have the PLO participating on an equal footing with the other parties.

The Americans want a ceremonial international conference which would be convened twice, at the beginning and at the end. At the beginning there would be a celebration and an inauguration and at the end there would be a signing ceremony. Who would accept such a conference? Perez de Cuellar does not agree. He says he will not participate in a ceremonial conference.

U.S. allies, such as France and Britain, do not accept such a conference and say they will not participate to give a rubber stamp approval. The USSR and the PRC do not accept the U.S. formula for the conference.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Then there will be no international conference without a change in the U.S. stand? Do you think there will be no international conference before a new U.S. president comes?

['Arafat] I am not saying this. I am saying there is a possibility that an agreement on holding an international conference will be reached during the superpower summit on 29 May. Before the summit, Shevardnadze and Shultz will hold a meeting on 11 May to discuss this issue. Or rather, the discussion of the issue, which has been carried out in detail during recent meetings between Gorbachev and Shultz and between Shultz and Shevardnadze, will be resumed.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Are you optimistic about the next summit?

['Arafat] Throughout my political career, I have not been either optimistic or pessimistic. I do not move on the basis of optimism or pessimism, but in accordance with the facts available to me.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] On the basis of the facts in your possession, do you anticipate that important decisions will be reached at this meeting.

['Arafat] I want to say one thing. In 1982, and on the basis of a U.S.-Israeli plan, they thought the PLO was finished and that the Palestinian issue would be shelved. What happened then? At the Amman Arab summit, they wanted to bypass the resolutions of previous Arab summits, including those passed at the Rabat and Fes summits.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Who wanted this?

['Arafat] It was the collective desire of some of our Arab brothers. Eventually, however, the Arab meeting imposed its view which supported the PLO. Previous Arab summit resolutions, including those adopted at the Rabat and Fes summits, were confirmed, such as the Rabat summit resolution which stated that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and the Fes summit resolution which emphasized the right of return and self-determination as well as the right to establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital under PLO leadership.

They had believed they could evacuate 500,000 Palestinians from Lebanon by sea. If this would have transpired, we would have been like the Vietnamese. There are Vietnamese refugees on the sea even today. You know how much time has passed since the Vietnam War. They wanted to do the same thing to the Palestinians. They wanted to turn them into refugees on ships.

The Palestinians, however, were steadfast in the camps. The Sabra and Shatila camps, with an area of only 400 and 500 meters, held steadfast for 3 years. The present uprising has overturned all expectations.

[AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI] Do you consider the uprising the PLO's greatest achievement?

['Arafat] It is one of the PLO's greatest achievements.

PLO Spokesman Comments on Redman's Statements

JN1705175788 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Brothers, an official Palestinian spokesman has commented on the statements by Charles Redman, the spokesman for the U.S. State Department, on 16 May with the following:

Twice in 1 week, the official U.S. spokesman has accused the PLO and its leaders of planning and instigating terrorism following the assassination of the hero leader martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. The Israeli leaders, in an official statement, have announced that the United States had prior knowledge of and approved that crime. These statements were carried by the Israeli and U.S. media, particularly the U.S. television network CNN, which carried these Israeli officials' statements on this crime citing its correspondent in Jerusalem.

It is strange that the official U.S. spokesman did not raise a hue and cry about the Israeli officials' statements to the CNN correspondent and did not comment on them at the time. However, they raised a hue and cry when Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] repeated these reports, citing Israeli and U.S. media.

The official U.S. spokesman failed to give the UN Security Council, U.S. public opinion, and international public opinion any explanation of the presence of the Boeing 707, which was directing the terrorist operation against Abu Jihad. The official in charge of the Mossad was on board this plane, which circled over the U.S. 6th Fleet near the Italian coast for 4 hours, as Italian air control officers have admitted and as monitored by air traffice control equipment. This was officially put on record and announced by the Italian representative at the UN Security Council.

Does this incident not remind us of the same scenario that took place during the Israeli strike against Brother Abu 'Ammar's headquarters in Hammam al-Shatt in Tunis in 1985, as well as the attempts by U.S. quarters to exonerate themselves of this crime at the beginning? They were later forced to admit the connection of McFarlane and the spy, Pollard, with this incident.

The continued impudence of the official U.S. spokesman in accusing the PLO and its leaders of planning and instigating terrorism only exposes the serious intentions the U.S. Administration harbors against the PLO and its leaders.

The Palestinian people and the free and honest men in the world who have a conscience, including the U.S. people, will not tolerate them, irrespective of the U.S. arrogance, which will not succeed in concealing the ugly face of this U.S. Administration and the boundless support it provides to the various Israeli methods of terrorism against our women, children, and the sons of our people.

While we reject the improper, inaccurate, and irresponsible statements of the U.S. State Department official spokesman, we affirm that these statements are an exposed attempt to justify the U.S. stand, which continues to be hostile to the Palestinian people and their just cause. No one must forget that the sons of our people are being killed daily with U.S. weapons and poisonous gases.

Spokesman Denies PLO Behind U.S. Embassy Blast

PM1705100188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 88 p 1

[Muhammad Sadiq and Zaki Musa report: "Investigation Continues Regarding U.S. Embassy Explosion in Sanaa"]

[Excerpts] Washington, London—The Yemeni Government yesterday continued its investigations into the explosion that occurred at the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa the

evening before last to determine the quarters responsible and whether there were any sabotage or political motives behind the blast.

The Yemeni authorities concerned yesterday refused to give new details about the incident. They merely said that investigations are under way and when the facts have been established an official statement on the details will be issued. [passage omitted]

'Abdallah Abu al-Hunud, director of the PLO office in Sanaa, denied that any of the Palestinian factions could have been behind such action. He said the PLO had no information about the explosion in the first place.

Abu al-Hunud, over the telephone, stressed that "the PLO has no intention to strike at the Americans, and this point was announced by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at a press conference held recently in Baghdad, during which he stressed the PLO's commitment to the Cairo Declaration, which confines confrontation with the Zionist enemy and his agents to the occupied Arab territories alone."

Abu al-Hunud referred to tasks the PLO had performed in the past, such as securing the protection of American citizens in Lebanon during the years when it had some security responsibility there.

Abu al-Hunud added that "we, and even the embassy's neighbors, did not hear the explosion. Thus, the matter is doubtful. Besides, the local Yemeni press has not broached the subject at all. Therefore, if there were anything, we have full confidence that the investigations being conducted by the Yemeni Government will reveal everything." [passage omitted]

PLO Moscow Representative on U.S. Role

LD1305192388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1821 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Moscow, May 13 (KUNA)—The U.S. Administration has openly decided to be a party to the Middle East conflict and made its intention clear in a recent message to the Palestine Liberation Organization, a PLO official charged here Friday.

The message which was relayed to the organization through a third Arab party indicated that Washington had decided to abandon its role as a peace broker in the Middle East, PLO Moscow representative Nabil 'Amr told KUNA.

He said that American terrorism accusations against the organization were "a naive trick" which reflects the U.S. Administration's political bankruptcy which, he added, manifested itself in the failure of the Shultz peace plan. Washington's lavish "bribes" to Israel during the run-up to the American presidential elections have undermined the U.S. credibility as a superpower, he said.

The United States' total compliance with the wishes of the Jewish state had isolated it as was the case in the U.N. Security Council where the world community stands on one side and American and Israel on the other, according to the PLO representative.

'Amr stressed that the PLO would continue to make feeding the uprising in the occupied territories its main concern and refuse to be dragged into other activities as the U.S. and Israel want it to do.

Denying allegations that the PLO was planning terrorist actions, he said "terrorism in all its forms is the weapon of the weak and those unable to confront facts... it's Israel's ultimate weapon which must eventually fail as did other Israeli aggressive weapons."

Fatah Dissident Reportedly Returns to Beirut

JN1305155588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 May pp 3, 20

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-ITTIHAD — Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], leader of Fatah-the Uprising Movement, arrived secretly in West Beirut yesterday. He was accompanied by an armored force equipped with artillery. The force immediately deployed in the periphery of the Shatila camp and began erecting military barricades.

A source supporting Abu Musa has told AL-ITTIHAD that he arrived in West Beirut to personally supervise the battle he is preparing to recapture his postions from Fatah fighters under the leadership of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. These positions were captured in the past week. The battle will take place if these positions are not handed over peacefully as agreed earlier.

The source said Abu Musa held several meetings immediately upon his arrival. These included meetings with Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Ka'an, head of security and intelligence for the Syrian troops in Lebanon; Col 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observation team; and 'Asim Qanswah, secretary general of the Ba'th Party in Lebanon.

The source pointed out that Abu Musa's visit came after he met Monday evening with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus. The meeting, which was attended by some PNSF officials, discussed the recent clashes in the Shatila camp.

This is the first time Abu Musa has visited Beirut since 1982. It came only 1 day after a similar visit to Beirut by Ahmad Jibril, PFLP-GC secretary general. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Abu Ghazalah on Ties With U.S. Military

JN1405163388 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 May 88 pp 10-15, 52-56

[Interview with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, by unidentified AL-MUSAWWAR editors in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the field marshal, although your declarations on the memorandum of understanding have been very clear, it seems we need further clarification because there is still a clamor concerning this memorandum.

Field Marshal: I wonder: Why has the memorandum of understanding with the United States created all this clamor? Egypt has signed numerous similar memorandums without such clamor. We signed a memorandum of understanding with Turkey, England, France, and the Soviet Union. Concerning the fraternal Arab states, we have a memorandum of understanding with Jordan. All these memorandums, including the recent memorandum signed with the United States, are no more than any protocol which any minister signs with any state according to his own field of specialization. I must, therefore, specifically ask: Why did the memorandum of understanding with the United States assume all these many dimensions?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Perhaps there is some sensitivity because the United States is one of the two superpowers?

Field Marshal: What sensitivity? Why do we consider matters with the United States to be sensitive? We say we have good relations with the United States. This is undebatable because the United States gives us $1.3 billion in military grants, separate from economic aid. Without this grant, it would have been difficult for us to rebuild the Armed Forces because Egypt does not now have a sufficient budget to purchase weapons from any other country. Therefore, the only way out is to deal with the sole country that gives us a $1.3 billion grant. We purchase most of the weapons we need from the United States. That is why I said the good relationship with the United States is undebatable.

I specifically ask you: From where will we purchase weapons if our revenues are insufficient to do so? Let us consider this matter with figures: Allocations in the Armed Forces' budget to renew and purchase equipment and weapons do not exceed $150 million a year. So, what can we purchase with such a budget? We have weapons worth $30-35 billion, some of which are from the Eastern countries and others from the West. These weapons are operational and I will not discuss their cost, but will only discuss the cost of their maintenance, that is, the mere cost of their storage and preservation in a good condition, so that they will be fit for use should a war break out.

If we assume that the cost of their maintenance is 5 percent of the cost of the weapons, which is one-half of the internationally agreed upon cost, the maintenance cost totals $1.75 billion, whereas the available budget does not exceed $150 million! What can we do then? Meanwhile, some people raise the issue of the United States. In fact, this talk greatly astonishes me. It seems that some people sometimes do not have anything to write about, so they write about this particular topic. You, as journalists, have attached exaggerated importance to this topic.

Why all the talk about this memorandum which features nothing beyond the following:

First: Egypt will be permitted to sell weapons to the Americans if they meet their required standards, as is the practice between other countries.

Second: Egypt will be allowed, should it so desire and of its own volition, to participate with the American side in any research potentially beneficial to the Egyptian Armed Forces, which means that when the United States engages in research to develop a new weapon, we will be entitled to request participation. We would then sit together for a discussion and sign a paper specifying the mode of our participation. It is natural that this should be so, because if we are to take part in this research we must agree on details and work out a modus operandi as well as split costs. Even so, I stressed to the American side that if we want to start a joint research project, Egypt will contribute its share from the grant. I ask: What constraints does this place on Egypt? And have we conceded Egyptian sovereignty?

Third: The memorandum also discusses increased arms purchases from the United States. Now I ask: Where can we acquire weapons as a grant? What's new in this? Where can we buy when we lack the required funds? Let me give an example. We purchased 20 Mirage 2000's from France. We meant to buy another 20, but there was a shortfall in the defense budget. What do we do then? Do we wait until our MiG 20's cease to be operational or we have only a limited number of aircraft? How do we cope with the dangers surrounding us? What are we required to do? In any case, these are the articles of the memorandum of understanding between us and the United States. Where are the concessions on Egyptian sovereignty and honor, and where have we fallen into the lap of the United States? I would have preferred to not respond to anyone on this particular subject, since I find nothing of what is said that merits an answer.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Some people say there are secret clauses. Others ask if it makes sense for us to sell weapons to the United States.

Field Marshal: There are no secret clauses. But to those who do not see us selling weapons to the United States I say, why not? We have secured an American license to produce the most up-to-date two-dimensional radar system in the U.S. arsenal. The (TPS-63) is now being produced by the Banha plant. There is no reason why this should not happen if the specified standards are met. If the American Navy or Air Force should invite bids to produce a given weapon, why not? Why should we not make a bid if our circumstances allow it and as long as we can produce to the required standards?

AL-MUSAWWAR: What do similar memorandums of understanding with other countries include?

Field Marshal: When we agreed on the manufacture of the Alpha jet, I signed a similar memorandum of understanding with [former] French Defense Minister Charles Hernu 3 years ago for cooperation in the exchange of technical information. All countries do this. Every Egyptian minister does so when he travels to a country to sign a protocol for cooperation. However, I have not heard such irresponsible talk about ceding sovereignty. This is strange.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Was it called a memorandum of understanding to avoid presenting it before the People's Assembly as agreements must be presented before the Assembly?

Field Marshal: We did not call it a memorandum of understanding to avoid presenting it before the People's Assembly. This is one of the irresponsible remarks I have read about this memorandum. We called it a memorandum of understanding because it is a memorandum of understanding. It is a kind of protocol concerning arrangements for bilateral technical cooperation.

I am surprised at such strange interpretations. Perhaps I want to ask those making such remarks: Do they imagine that the Americans would sign any agreement with any state without referring it to Congress, if it is an agreement, not a memorandum of understanding?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are all the memorandums of understanding with Western countries?

Field Marshal: I have signed protocols with the defense ministers of Romania, Yugoslavia, and others.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Has there been a military protocol signed with the Soviet Union?

Field Marshal: Yes, there are many military protocols with the Soviet Union. Within this context, a delegation was sent to get acquainted with spare parts. We asked the Soviets for talks once again about the way spare parts are used. Why did no one speak about this? Believe me, I do not want this issue to be raised once again because it is at the heart of my specialty.

The matter was not confined to the issue of the memorandum of understanding. Some ask: Why the M-1 tank when we have approximately 2,000 tanks? Whether this number is true or not, half of our tanks are nearing the end of their anticipated life span, if they have not already exceeded it. What would we do then? It is amazing that those who are saying this are at the same time talking about Tabah, war, land, and a granule of sand. Do they want war? How can they reconcile one with the other? How can you want to start a war when you do not seek to promote and renew weaponry?

How do we fight? Is there any war now that can be waged with the rifle and sword? War now is the war of tanks, planes, and electronics. These days you have a plane flying and all of a sudden it is hit by another plane 120 miles away without the pilot seeing it or knowing from where the blow came. What should the pilot do and how can he fight, even if he is very brave, patriotic, highly skilled, and trained? What should a MiG-21 pilot do against an F-15 when, all of a sudden, he sees in front of him a missile being launched at him from the F-15?

The MiG-21 pilot cannot see farther than 7 km. The F-15 pilot can see him from a distance of 120 miles and hit him from a distance of 80 miles. What should the pilot do and how can he fight even if he is brave and highly-trained? Another example, is when you have a tank with a 100-mm gun mounted on it and the maximum range of this gun is 1 km or 1 km and 200 meters, while the enemy can fire its gun from a distance of 3 km with a degree of accuracy that is almost a direct hit. Those who want to speak about the war or strategy should learn and know and should have the knowledge and background that would help them.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency the Field Marshal, I believe that we used to export some of our military products to NATO before this memorandum?

Field Marshal: No, this is untrue. We did not have the right to sell our products in their market because they have certain rules. I must adhere to these rules before I get into this field.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What about last year's approximately $5 million deal concerning specific types of lenses for various weapons?

Field Marshal: This deal was concluded with an African state. We had competed with an European state that produced such equipment and we won. But, does anyone imagine that he can sell to the United States with a memorandum of understanding? Until recently, American law did not allow the European states to bid for U.S. Army contracts. However, it now allows them to bid. We told the Americans: Why do you allow Israel, the European states, and Turkey to bid, but you do not allow us? We discussed this issue with them 3 years ago. They told us that they have special requirements regarding quality and specifications.

We told them we are ready to meet these requirements. We told them that we have no objection to meeting any quality specifications and testing requirements, and we also have no objection to their helping us in training our cadres in order to allow us to sell to them, so what is their objection? The important thing you should know is that selling means the continuation of production. I will give you an example, if we just imagine the situation of the M-1 tank. We will produce a large number of the M-1 parts. There are certain parts which they consider to be industrial secrets, such as armor. No one gives the secret to manufacturing the special metal sheet designed for armor, neither the USSR nor the United States. They just give you the metal sheets and then you assemble them to make the tank's body.

We can take this metal sheet and conduct engineering tests on it to find out its components and to manufacture it. But this takes years and is very costly. The other part which we might not be able to produce is the tank's firing control system because the modern tank has a computerized firing system. The tank is no longer a matter of aiming the tank gun and firing. There is a computer that calculates with extreme precision the distance and other factors which may affect the course taken by the gunshot, such as the atmospheric temperature, the speed of the wind, the direction of the wind, and many other things. The computer calculates all these matters so that the shot will be direct and lethal.

In the past, it was the soldier who made these calculations. He used to wet his finger and hold it up in the air to feel the direction of the wind—whether it was north or south—or to fire a shot which did not hit the target. He would then use the binoculars to measure the distance. After more than one shot he would rectify the shooting process. Now this process has become simple and 98 percent of the shots hit their targets. What is important is that they said they could not give us the secret of the firing control system, and we said: That is neither important nor practical because economically it would be very costly for us to produce 120 firing control systems at a time when the United States is producing thousands.

We said: Those 2 parts are not necessary because the tank consists of 800 or 900 parts and we can manufacture a large percentage of them. We also asked the United States: If we are going to manufacture these parts according to specifications and the required control level, what prevents you from buying some of these parts from us so that we can reduce the cost of production and so that we can have an exchange that enables us to obtain the maximum possible benefit from the U.S. grant? The reply was positive and that is why the memorandum of understanding was signed.

This was our idea of understanding. It was not at all theirs. We told the Americans: We have heard that you have signed memorandums of understanding with many countries. We want copies of these memorandums. We obtained the memorandums they signed with Britain, France, and others. We read them all, wrote down all the advantageous points in them, and discussed them, at all the technical, legal, and political levels, here in Egypt. We then told them: This is the memorandum of understanding on which we want to agree.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the size of the Egyptian program to manufacture this tank?

Field Marshal: The program is set up on the basis of our capacity to produce 120 tanks a year in the first stage. We will be able to manufacture 550 tanks in 5 years. Once this is achieved, nobody will prevent me from producing the numbers I want. Accordingly, the plant's capacity in the first 5 years will be about 550 tanks, all of which represent the needs of the Armed Forces.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Will manufacturing begin immediately or will the process begin with assembling?

Field Marshal: I would like to explain that every industry begins by assembling. Afterward, we will manufacture the parts. We can assemble parts in the 1st year, but in the 2d year we will, God willing, be able to manufacture all the parts as agreed. This means that we will manufacture the turret, gun, body, and track of the tank.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Will the production of armor depend wholly on our imports of sheets of a particular type?

Field Marshal: No. We will produce only a particular type of armor. The tank has a lot of armor. Part of the armor is at the front end and part of it is at the turret to act as a shield.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But our steel plants have not reached the stage where they can produce this particular type.

Field Marshal: We are now working on building a production line of strategic steel, and have agreed with the military industries on a processing [darfalah] mode of the steel which should take 2 years. Of course when the production comes on line we will depend on it for most of the tank's armor.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is there no other place where we can get the engine?

Field Marshal: This is not a problem. We can obtain it anywhere. It is important that the engine be 1,500 horsepower. It need not necessarily be American. It can be English or French. It does not matter.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Against whom is this weapon intended to be used? Who does Egypt's military strategy perceive the enemy to be?

Field Marshal: Any country. Even a nation with which you have a peace agreement is in the long run a potential enemy when there is a clash of strategic interests. A case in point is Iraq and Iran, which had good relations and then were at war. Even between the Arab states themselves; Arab League members may fight one another. I do not want to name specific countries. My perception of a key enemy is one that seeks to strike at strategic targets and the nation's supreme interests. An important question seems to be in order here: Suppose a certain group seized power in a country on the Nile River and then decided to harm Egypt's strategic interests in the Nile waters. What do we do? Do we die of thirst or do we defend the nation's supreme interests?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Isn't our essential dependence on American weaponry something of a curb on its use if a situation arises when we have to act in self-defense?

Field Marshal: Once the weapons are in your possession they become Egyptian. As for the spare parts, that's another matter. We had been dependent on the Soviet Union for our arms and maintained good relations with the Soviet Union. But what happened when they withheld spare parts? We were not powerless or handcuffed; we produced the spare parts which we used to import. So this should not be an insurmountable problem. Let me give a specific example. We used to import SAM-7 missiles from the USSR. When the weapon was withheld when it was badly needed, we managed to assemble and produce the missile. The same holds true for the tanks.

Suppose the Americans decided to withhold their engines from us. We can replace them with English, Chinese, or French ones. So there's no problem here. For example, we fitted the Russian T-54 tank with a Western engine and gun, and turned it into a new tank we named Ramses-2. It was a Russian tank of which we did not produce a single part. Take the M-1 tank. We will produce 80 percent of the tank. We did not produce any part of the Russian tank and when the spare parts were cut off and it deteriorated we produced all the tank's spare parts.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Have your recent talks in Washington dealt with the issue of military debts? Have you not discussed this subject with them?

Field Marshal: You in the press like to say civilian debts and military debts and differentiate between them. I disagree with this. I call them both Egypt's debts because there is nothing that is called military and another that is called civilian. The military men are not dissociated from the Egyptian people. The military or the Armed Forces are an indivisible part of society and future armament is not for the Army, but for the defense of Egypt, our life, and our entity. These are Egypt's debts—the debts which enable us to eat wheat and purchase weapons to defend this homeland. Therefore, I do not at all agree to saying military debts and civilian debts. There is discrimination in this that harms the dignity of the Egyptian human being before it harms the Egyptian military.

Hence, when we talk about debts, we should talk about them as a whole. When we talk about a solution to the issue of debts, we should talk about it as a whole. Debts are the problem of the Ministry of Economy and the government. It is not the problem of the Defense Ministry because the Defense Ministry has not taken loans. The Defense Ministry asks for weapons. The state says: I do not have money, so let us try loans. We then take a loan and sign an agreement on it. With this loan we purchase weapons. My duty in the Armed Forces is to look after these weapons and use them in the best possible way. The side that pays is the Egyptian community because the Defense Ministry is not a producing ministry so that it can pay.

It is a ministry of services which has to use and maintain weapons. Therefore, the issue of the so-called military debts is not a matter for discussion by the defense minister, but rather by the economic minister and the prime minister. Naturally, when I go to Washington as an Egyptian official this does not prevent me from talking about the issue of debts and the need to find a just solution to it once I am instructed to do so. However, there was nothing in my program nor had I any instructions to talk about the military or civilian debts during my recent mission.

If you ask me in my capacity as a cabinet member, I may say that the United States has recently made some proposals to turn the governmental debts into commercial debts. However, there are many vague points in the American memorandum. We are studying them now and we have ample time to study them because Egypt is not in a hurry. The recent U.S. proposal has not been crystallized yet because it includes some good points as well as weak ones. It is quite possible for us to take the good points and leave the weak ones. This subject is being studied in detail at the Ministry of Economy.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Field Marshal, if we are greatly interested in war industrialization and in linking this industrialization to some degree of current world technological development, does this not mean that we are in need of markets? What happened to the issue of the Arab Industrialization Organization [AIO] and what is our relationship with the Arab market? To what extent could there be Arab cooperation in this domain?

Field Marshal: The issue of the AIO and the return of the Arab brothers is still under discussion. No specific solutions have taken form yet. I think that [UAE President] Shaykh Zayid's visit has heightened the importance of this issue. Egypt is also discussing this matter with many countries. Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, who is in charge of holding negotiations in this regard, may have more detailed information.

AL-MUSAWWAR: While planning for war industrialization, are we planning to meet Egypt's needs or those of the Arab region?

Field Marshal: Our factories can meet needs far greater than Egypt's alone because what is earmarked in the Defense Ministry budget for purchases from the war factories is much less than the real production capacity of the war factories. This means that the war production factories, that is, the war production organization alone without the Arab Organization, can produce $1.5 billion worth of equipment a year if it works 100 percent in one shift. It may produce more than that if there is a desire to do so. We do not have more than 146 million pounds in our budget for purchases from war plants, and I think you know the difference.

I think the AIO has 10 plants whose production can exceed half a billion [not further identified] a year. This means that Egyptian war production, once it finds markets and succeeds, can sell equipment worth $2 billion and production may increase. This requires much effort and work so that our production of weapons can reach the Arab and African markets. I believe that we began to succeed in this regard, especially after we held exhibitions in the Arab and African countries. Moreover, you cannot sell your goods to those who manufacture them. This means you cannot go and sell the Alpha jet, the manufacturing licence for which we obtained from France, to the French Army. But, a cooperation agreement with France can be reached where we manufacture parts of the aircraft for them. This is what we did with France. We are now manufacturing some parts of the Mirage 2000 and the Alpha jet for them. These parts are sold to France in accordance with a memorandum of understanding we signed with France. By the way, no clamor was raised about it as was the case with the memorandum of understanding we signed with the United States.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Perhaps Israel is causing some sensitivity?

Field Marshal: What has Israel got to do with this subject? Why do we always put Israel as a barrier between us and our relations with the world? Why do we always measure our foreign relations in accordance with Israel's relations with other states? I measure our relations with other states in accordance with what Egypt's benefit would be from these relations; what we stand to gain and what we have to give. We must deal with matters from the angle of national interest.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Field Marshal, let us return to the subject of the AIO and its capabilities, which, you said, exceed our needs.

Field Marshal: The capacity of the factories does not exceed the volume of our needs. We need many things, but our budget is not sufficient. It is very likely that we could absorb 50-60 percent of the output of our factories, if we had the money. This, briefly, is the issue.

AL-MUSAWWAR: To what extent does the war production meet Egypt's needs?

Field Marshal: We have approximately 15 factories in the war production organization. Some of these factories are an assemblage of several factories. For example, a factory like the 99 War Factory is equal to 10 factories or more if we divide it.

The AIO has 10 factories. There are factories belonging to and owned 100 percent by the Armed Forces. They have six to seven factories, in addition to the factories which produce civilian products.

What do we produce in the Armed Forces? We produce any war product which meets armament needs and which should be economical.

The war production organization now produces complete guns. We do not need to buy any types of guns.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But we recently purchased 155-mm self-propelled guns from the United States as a grant?

Field Marshal: This is because we wanted to enter the field of manufacturing self-propelled guns. We have begun to mount 122-mm guns on tank chassis, and have succeeded, praise be to God. We produce all calibers of guns, from the small to the heavy ones. When we say we produce them this means we produce them from raw material, that is, turning an iron mass into a gun. Therefore, we produce all gun calibers, including aiming and optic equipment. Now we have begun to produce computers aiding guns. Our artillery industry has reached 100 percent production.

AL-MUSAWWAR: And the ammunition industry?

Field Marshal: Our production is at 100 percent. We have no problem with the types of ammunition, except for the ones which are still internationally prohibited, like chemical ammunition. We did not get into this field, although many of the world states around us and all over the globe proceed in this direction, which should be the object for world attention because it is indeed a dangerous matter.

AL-MUSAWWAR: And the antiaircraft artillery?

Field Marshal: We began the antiaircraft artillery industry. We began manufacturing the 23-mm machineguns and made progress in the missile industry because air defense includes guns which are usually heavy machineguns and missile networks. We entered the air defense industry and began to manufacture the shoulder-held missiles which they call light missiles, 'Ayn al-Saqr. We took the Soviet SAM-7 missile and after conducting engineering tests on it we succeeded in manufacturing it, God be praised. We began to develop it in order to overcome all types of jamming [al-shawsharah] and other obstacles. We began to manufacture the large

missile SAM-2 successfully, but there are no funds for large production. This is what was recently published by THE FINANCIAL TIMES, which said Egypt is manufacturing a surface-to-surface missile [as published]. The reality is that we have the Soviet SAM-2 missile on which we conducted tests with the aim of turning it into an antiaircraft missile, and we succeeded in that. We launched a number of missiles and they were 100 percent successful.

AL-MUSAWWAR: And the armored vehicles?

Field Marshal: We began manufacturing the old armored vehicle "Al-Walid." It had many shortcomings, but we developed it and manufactured the vehicle "Fahd." We are manufacturing most of its parts. It is true that we are still importing some types of steel used to armor it, but we will be self-sufficient when the strategic steel and processing plant set up by the iron and steel company begins production. If the iron and steel plant fails to manufacture this type of steel, we will manufacture it in the war factories.

AL-MUSAWWAR: And the tank industry?

Field Marshal: We began the tank industry. For your information, you can say that we have a tank industry because this industry is based on the assembly of what is produced by various factories, such as the engine, chassis, gear box, turret, gun, aiming equipment, and ammunition. We are manufacturing the gun, the aiming equipment, the gear box, the spare parts, and the track. We are not manufacturing the armor, but will do so when the strategic steel unit has been set up. We have much experience. We developed the old tanks such as the T-54. We began to remove the various parts and take the body of the tank on which we fixed all the other things. All that we lacked was armor, but the tank we have is an old one (T-54 and T-55). It is not the tank of the nineties. We began to search for the tank of the nineties, so we picked the "M-1" tank.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Why did you pick the "M-1" tank specifically?

Field Marshal: I would like to tell you something. In order to manufacture a tank we need huge funds because the price of a tank now is $1-2 million. In the year 1990 and afterward the price of the tank will be about $3 million. These are astronomical figures. Nevertheless, a missile with a price of $5,000 can hit and destroy this $3-million tank. Any soldier can also destroy a tank costing $3 million. The price of the British "Challenger" tank is 3.5 million pounds sterling. The tank Fahd was offered to some Arab countries 3 years ago for $3.6 million while the Soviet tank T-72 was sold for $1.6 million. Relatively, this tank has lagged behind. By all this I mean to say that the price of the tank will reach $3 million in 1990. When I produce this tank, this will mean a reduction in an important part of the clauses of the U.S. military grant that can be exploited in other areas, especially since I will sell the parts which we will produce to the United States and NATO countries.

The other point is that Egypt should have an Egyptian-made tank. Israel produced the Merkava I tank and developed it into Merkava II, and then Merkava III. They are now working on Merkava IV to meet their needs until the year 2000. In light of this, shall we just sit and watch? What is the solution? We must produce our own tank regardless of the cost. There are states that have produced tanks despite their high cost. The SFRY, Romania, Brazil and Argentina have produced tanks. Saudi Arabia will also produce a tank with a Brazilian license. In light of this situation, shall we continue to import tanks? If you are talking about fears of subservience, then how can we liberate ourselves from this subservience? In this case, we will benefit from the U.S. grant, in addition to the good type of tank we have obtained.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But, the problem lies in our ability to catch up with the fast and continuous modernization of the tank, especially in light of the horrible race between the development of armor for the tank and the development of antitank missiles.

Field Marshal: We have agreed to produce the tank which will continue to be in service until the year 2000. The anticipated life span of this tank is 20 years.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are the antitank weapons not taken into consideration?

Field Marshal: This is actually taking place. The new feature of the M-1 tank is that they have designed the turret and the front armor with a specific system of armor that is difficult to penetrate. Today, something new has been introduced. It is a missile that moves, guided by a television eye, in an upward motion to hit the tank turret. This means that the race is continuing. In response, a tank is now able to spit out a cloud of smoke when an antitank missile is fired at it, and consequently the missile will not see it with this television eye.

AL-MUSAWWAR: One of the lessons derived from the October war was that the importance of tanks was expected to be reduced as a result of small, tank-hunting missiles carried on the shoulder of a soldier.

Field Marshal: Immediately after the end of the war, as usual, some sides made hasty judgments to the effect that tanks can no longer exist merely because shoulder-held missiles were able to destroy a large number of tanks. However, tank owners did not care to lose the battle, and so they began to develop the tank to overcome the new weapons. In general, there is no final opinion. For example, after the October war, some said that the missile would cancel the role of the plane. Then a development took place that undermined the ability of missiles by hindering and jamming in a manner that

makes the missile miss its target. The plane was also developed with sophisticated means that enable it to sense and avoid the missile. The only job scientists have is to research and develop with the objective of collecting state funds.

AL-MUSAWWAR: If we go back, we find that as a first step, emphasis was put on the principle of diversifying the sources of weapons. Now we are emphasizing the need to produce them locally. Is our industrialization philosophy based on producing specific items or everything? Will production sources be diversified to prevent a monopoly, and do we have the scientific know-how to develop the production of weapons in Egypt? How will we face the process of development?

Field Marshal: When we approach industrialization, we choose the weapons that are suitable to us and to our theater of operations. For example, when we thought about producing aircraft, we said that we are not a rich country. In spite of this, we want a multipurpose aircraft. This means that I cannot produce an aircraft that will serve for air defense only and another for support purposes. I want an aircraft that will fulfill many purposes. That is why we opted for the F-16 and the Mirage 2000. They are very advanced aircraft, and one can change the aircraft's armament in accordance with the mission it has to perform. We succeeded in doing this.

It was part of our agreement when we purchased the American F-16's that this aircraft could carry air-to-air missiles, air-to-ground, and air-to-surface missiles that can be launched against vessels.

Our choice for armored vehicles fell on the Russian BMP. But the Russians refused to grant us the license. We cooperated with one of the countries. We carried out reverse engineering and successfully produced this type of armored vehicle.

It is not important that weapons are either American or French. We choose what is suitable for us. Then we sit down and reach an agreement on the licence. But, if some refuse to give us a licence, we resort to reverse engineering as we did for the SAM-7 missile, which we are producing. There is also the 'Ammun missile, originally of German-Italian-Swiss make. We also produce Soviet missiles. For training purposes, we will produce a multipurpose missile that will provide an integrated air defense system. When we think about any weapon we want to produce, we take into consideration the type and the economic feasibility. It is illogical to produce a tank that is sold on the market at $3 million, at a cost of $9 million. If I cannot produce it at market prices, then why should I produce it?

This applies to the Fahd armored vehicle. We produce it at a cost of $160,000 to $170,000, while the ordinary armored vehicle is sold on the market at $400,000.

In view of all this, the choice is not made haphazardly. Everything is studied in detail. We plan production in light of what suits us and in light of our needs every year.

AL-MUSAWWAR: When you choose weapons, do you study the type of weapons available in the areas of conflict around us?

Field Marshal: Of course. For example, we chose the tank that suits us against all current and future threats for the next 20 years. In other words, when I chose the M-1 tank, I had to make certain it was at least equal, if not superior, to the tanks available in the conflict areas around us.

Therefore, I am careful to select the type which remains superior to others. When we choose any weapon, we study the operations theater, the topography, the climatic conditions, our military capability, the technological base in our country, and the nature of the main threat around us. We also consider the most serious threats. And in the light of all that, we conduct our studies. These studies are conducted by youthful experts of the highest caliber.

AL-MUSAWWAR: To what extent can we depend on ourselves in arms production now?

Field Marshal: We can now derend on ourselves for more than 60 percent of the production. Of course we cannot entirely depend on ourselves in the case of, say, the F-16 or Mirage 2000, because of the high costs.

Turkey, for instance, set up an F-16 plant which will produce about 160 planes in several years at the rate of one and one-fourth planes a month. This plant costs $1.6 billion. Where will we get such money?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is it not possible for arms exports to ensure a part of the necessary resources for establishing new arms plants?

Field Marshal: There is an erroneous belief that when we sell arms, we obtain the revenues. This is never the case. We market the arms, and the plant which produces these arms obtains all the revenues. It is different outside. In the United States, for instance, we find that all arms plants belong to the private sector. The Department of Defense controls war production. If I want to purchase an aircraft from the United States, I make a request and they provide me with catalogues and general data on the aircraft. Once the U.S. Government has approved the request, it permits the manufacturing company to provide us with the detailed technical data so that we can study them.

On the basis of this study, we send our approval. The Americans then send us a letter of offer and acceptance. In this letter, the U.S. Army adds a 30 percent increase on the company's price. The Army obtains 3.5 percent of the price as administrative expenses, since it is the party

which oversees the deal. It is also the party which, in the first place, inspected and approved the aircraft. The Army also agrees with the company to obtain a certain number of these aircraft at a reduced price. The Army can resell the aircraft at the price it wants. This is how the U.S. system works.

Under the British system, the Defense Ministry adds a certain percentage on all arms sales by British companies. This percentage does not go into the budget, but goes to research, development, and other special purposes.

We do not have this system. Furthermore, when the Egyptian Armed Forces want to purchase anything from the war industries, they have to pay more than the export price. For example, the price of a rifle outside is $20-$30 less than the price in the home market.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is there any connection between Egypt's production of the M-1 tank and the General Motors bid to enter the local automobile industry?

Field Marshal: Never. There is no connection. For the record, I will tell you the General Motors story, to which I was not a party in the first place.

Under the government of Dr Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din, the prime minister asked me to head a ministerial committee for the production of light transport vehicles "A". When I inquired about the reasons, I was told then that every deputy prime minister had to chair some committee. I sat with the competent ministers and we began our work. In one of the meetings, we discussed Egypt's need to manufacture a passenger car.

In light of our discussion, I requested a detailed study of the subject. Study committees were set up to examine the Egyptian market's needs and whether there was sufficient demand to produce an economic car.

The studies said Egypt needed 60,000 cars a year and that the figure could go up to 100,000 cars a year. The matter was submitted to international bids.

The bids came in the form of offers to build assembly plants without any provisions about the need to produce certain parts of the car locally. My comment was: For 28 years we have been assembling the Fiat without any increae in the local production of car parts.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But the Al-Nasr Automobile Organization produces trucks and buses.

Field Marshal: I am talking about passenger cars. I said we must manufacture locally. There were bids from Fiat, Renault, Volkswagen, Peugeot, and General Motors. We studied the bids and discovered that the bid from General Motors was the only one which said that the manufacture of a successful passenger car needed successful support industries. They came up with a proposal to confine support industries to Egypt in order to produce parts for 250,000 cars a year. In other words, we would ask each support industry to produce 250,000 parts, of which 50,000 would be used in the manufacture of the local car and the rest would be sold to General Motors. The other parts of the car would come from abroad, but we would also gradually introduce the production of these parts so that within a period of 5 years we would have attained a reasonable percentage of local production of parts. This was because studies had established that the car would not be economical if the production was less than 150,000 cars annually.

We concluded our meetings, which were attended by all the competent ministers, and referred the matter to the Council of Ministers. But, I did not attend any other meeting that had any connection with this subject. In fact, I avoided every meeting of the planning committee which included General Motors on its agenda.

The truth is, they came to me once and I referred them to the industry minister. It was said that involving a major international car company like General Motors in the manufacture of an Egyptian car would be a great gain. The point is they got into a mix-up with one another in my absence. They disagreed on the price of the dollar and on many other things.

AL-MUSAWWAR: At the time, there were rumors of a deal linking implementation of the General Motors project in the Nasr Automobile Manufacturing Organization to launching the M-1 tank project.

Field Marshal: There has never been any link whatsover. No, there has never been any link between anything military and the General Motors project.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Your Excellency, let us now move to the Iraq-Iran war. Do you think that Iraq's recent recapture of the Al-Faw Peninsula indicates a qualitative change in the Iraq-Iran war. In other words, does the Al-Faw battle bolster the hope that Iraq will be able to settle its war with Iran militarily?

Field Marshal: There is no doubt that the recapture of Al-Faw represents a military victory for Iraq, especially when we consider the fact that the Iranians maintained their occupation of the peninsula for a long time. Iran's occupation of Al-Faw was a cause of grave concern for the Gulf states. The Iraqis have successfully and capably managed to exploit the military laxity which had become entrenched within the Iranian forces as a result of their prolonged occupation of Al-Faw. The Iraqis struck and drove the Iranians out. It is indisputable that the Al-Faw victory will negatively affect Tehran's morale. The Iranians have sustained a blow that will have a significant effect on their morale. This might pave the way for Iran's acceptance of a sort of cease-fire agreement, but not for an agreement to end the war. I still believe that during the coming few years, Iran will not agree to terminate the war by achieving a reconciliation and peace with Iraq.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Why?

Field Marshal: First, because Iran needs this border tension to ensure the internal unity of a fragmented Iran. Furthermore, they are exploiting this war to brainwash the Iranian people—a process which allows them to impose hegemony on the society, especially the young generation.

One more thing, this war provides the Tehran rulers with justifications and excuses for the deterioration of the Iranian economy, which has gone down to a dangerous level, and also for the continuation of the despotic rule of the ayatollahs.

All this makes the current Iranian regime prefer to keep things as they are, as this allows it to liquidate all of its enemies, impose total hegemony, and bring about an end to an entire generation of opponents.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is your assessment of the recent escalating operations between Iran and the United States in the Gulf? Have they remained within the context of the calculated escalation?

Field Marshal: I believe they have remained within the context of the calculated escalation which is linked to Washington's desire to avoid a complete break with Iran.

As a matter of fact, we cannot say that an American intervention resulting in a comprehensive confrontation between Tehran and Washington has occurred. The two sides exchanged fire in some combat activities. However, there is a mutual desire to avoid a comprehensive confrontation.

It goes without saying that the Americans have begun to feel that Iran is beginning to be excessive in many areas, namely, in the area of international terrorism, in threatening the safety of international navigation in the Gulf, and also in attempting to terrorize its neighboring oil-producing states. Hence, Washington found itself compelled to bring about a calculated intervention by engaging in some combat activities against some Iranian targets without creating a comprehensive confrontation. This was prompted by the fact that Iran has chosen, unsupported by any legal or rational logic, to attack all ships sailing in the Gulf. This, of course, has its effects on Europe, oil prices, and economic stability.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Therefore, it is possible that Washington will carry out a new military operation against Tehran, but within the framework of the calculated escalation which seeks to preserve Iran as one of the objectives of U.S. strategy?

Field Marshal: You must not believe they will sacrifice Iran and have it join the other side.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is currently taking place in Gulf waters in terms of naval battles between a huge fleet and small boats?

Field Marshal: Such talk is exaggerated. The Gulf is very small. Small boats such as these cannot proceed to the high seas, but operate alongside the coast near their bases. The narrowness of the Gulf allows such methods to be followed. This does not represent any change in the nature of naval warfare.

AL-MUSAWWAR: At least, it has had an impact on the form of the American naval presence. They thought about reducing it?

Field Marshal: No one in the world thinks about sending an aircraft carrier to a gulf with a limited area. It would be an easy target. Suppose an aircraft carrier enters the Suez Canal. It would become an easy target from the shore. The inadequacy of maritime areas brings about tactical warfare. Small, closed seas and narrow gulfs are not suitable for large-scale naval operations. Let them come out with their boats to the Arabian Sea. They will have no weight there and they will get hit.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How is it the Americans were unaware, from the beginning, of the nature of warfare in these areas?

Field Marshal: Most of the American vessels are outside the Gulf, not in it. However, they escort some units along a specific line while they pass through the Gulf. The Iranian speedboats act at this point.

AL-MUSAWWAR: The Iraqis, Egyptians, and Saudis have surface-to surface missiles. Some believe that the deployment of these missile means a change in the balance of power between the Arabs and Israel, that matters are proceeding toward further parity in deterrence between the two sides, and that this might be more in favor of the Arabs because these missiles can reach deep inside Israel and can double the Israeli loss of life. Are there actually new changes in the balance of power between the Arabs and Israel?

Field Marshal: Generally speaking, missiles are an efficient weapon of deterrence. When missiles first began appearing in the world, their primary task was to carry nuclear warheads. This is because surface-to-surface missiles were not so precise as to hit a specific target. They were not as accurate as an aircraft which can reach its target, accurately pinpoint it, and then strike it. When a missile is fired it ascends from one place to another. If a missile has a long range, then there is a margin of error. In the best missiles, there is a 0.1 percent margin of error, so if a missile has a range of 1,000 km then it will have an error of 1 km. This means the missile can land at any point inside a circle with a radius of 1 km. Therefore, in order to strike at a target with such a missile, this target should have an area not less than 1 square km. The

missiles used by Iraq and Iran hit a target with an area of 2.5 km x 2 km. In this case, the missile will land at any point within this area and will score an effective hit.

Hence, what has now made such missiles a deterrent is the presence of cities. Anyone can strike at residential areas. Naturally, states with small populations that consider human losses a large, influential factor will be worried and consider missiles to be a deterrent. Missiles have become an effective weapon, particularly against cities and civilians. This is the first point. The second point is that there is no way to defend against missiles. This means there are no antimissile missiles [as published], but there are antiaircraft missiles and also aircraft that intercept aircraft.

In the event of an air raid there is not a 100 percent guarantee that a raiding plane will reach its target because its route may be intercepted by air defenses. This also applies to squadrons of aircraft; hence, there is no guarantee that all planes will reach their targets nor is there any guarantee that any of them will do so. However, the case is different with missiles. A missile, once fired, will definitely reach its target. Thus, the stories of safe borders or the strong defense which is impossible to penetrate have become greatly doubtful matters in the presence of missiles. Now, everyone has missiles and any party can strike at any city. This means that if a party strikes at residential areas, the other party will strike at the first party's residential areas. Therefore, we can say that all Arab states possess a specific deterrent force which gives them weight to be considered at wartime.

In other words, if you invade my country then I will strike at your cities. Hence, missiles are a deterrent weapon and not a factor that reverses the balance of power as some may imagine. Missiles are a deterrent weapon which necessarily influences war decisionmaking and prevents the enemy from carrying out a specific adventure. So, the enemy will find it necessary to think prior to launching an offensive, to make certain calculations, and to wonder about what it may win or what it may lose. Thus, if your losses are heavier they will necessarily influence the war decisionmaking.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the difference between this deterrent weapon that some Arab countries have obtained and the Israeli deterrent weapon represented by its possession of the nuclear bomb? Which of them can be used as a factor in political life?

Field Marshal: There is no doubt that nuclear deterrence is by far more effective than that of conventional weapons. I said at the beginning that the surface-to-surface missile was produced to carry nuclear warheads. There is also no doubt that nuclear deterrence is very serious and effective. However, let us speak clearly about the Israeli nuclear power.

First, it is known that when we say that a state has nuclear weapons, it should have conducted nuclear tests. We did not witness such tests by Israel. It has been said that Israel carried out such tests with South Africa. What is important is that Israel leaks information about its possession of nuclear weapons, therefore, one doubts and is skeptical about whether Israel really possesses nuclear weapons.

In spite of this, all the evidence confirms that Israel does have nuclear weapons. The recent Vanunu trial forms part of this evidence. The serious studies of the strength of the nuclear reactors and of the quantity of uranium which could be in Israel's possession, including that which Israel managed to smuggle in from the United States, makes it likely that Israel has between 20 and 25 standard-type [al-iyariyah] nuclear bombs. This type of bomb is equivalent to 20,000 tonnes of explosive material, and is equal in strength to the two bombs that were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Israel also possesses aircraft capable of carrying this bomb to its target. However, Israel still does not have a missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads to their targets. Yes, they have the Jericho missile, which has a range of 480 km, but is still in the early development stage.

AL-MUSAWWAR: When will Israel resort to the nuclear solution? Does a country resort to this solution only if traditional solutions fail?

Field Marshal: The United States resorted to the nuclear solution in Vietnam only after traditional solutions failed. [as published] The Israelis still believe that the traditional solution, represented by conventional war, continues to be successful.

Logic says that Israel will not resort to nuclear deterrence. It only threatens with it. That is why it is eager to instill the gravity of nuclear deterrence in the Arab mind.

AL-MUSAWWAR: When could Israel resort to a nuclear solution?

Field Marshal: I believe Israel could resort to the nuclear solution if the Arab states united with all their resources and capabilities under a single leadership. Israel knows that the real danger lies in the general unification of the Arab military forces within a unified planning framework and under a single command.

Here, Israel could resort to a nuclear deterrence because it knows that such a step would mean real danger for it.

The question now posed is: When would Arab resources be unified, and is this possible in the foreseeable future? If you ask me this question, my frank answer will be that I doubt this objective will be achieved within the next 10 years, at least.

The only situation in which Israel could resort to a nuclear solution would be if the government there falls into mad hands which might think that by directing nuclear attacks at two Arab capitals they could control the entire Middle East.

If the attack were to be directed at armies, standard atomic bombs such as the ones dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki would not destroy more than two infantry battalions in war. They would not stop the war or the fighting. This is because every tank these days is shielded against nuclear radiation.

My talk about nuclear capabilities does not mean that we want war or that we are making threats. We believe in peace based on justice. This is vital for the reconstruction of Egypt and for securing a better life for every Egyptian. Peace is also vital for all the peoples in the region. But, just peace always requires a military capability to protect it. I believe this is the strategy for which Egypt always advocates and works.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are Egyptian tanks also equipped with this nuclear shield?

Field Marshal: Yes, all tanks in the world, including Egyptian tanks, are equipped to cope with such a situation. The tank shuts itself against nuclear pollution with a high percentage of guarantee and then continues to fight. This exists in all tanks in the world today.

Therefore, if Israel's use of nuclear bombs against military targets is a remote possibility, how then can it use such bombs against civilian targets such as a city, power station, or the Suez Canal? One can get an idea of the effect by what happened to the Chernobyl nuclear reactor following a slight leakage. The radioactive effect reached Turkey, Greece, and Eastern Europe. If Israel explodes its bombs, would it be able to protect itself from the winds blowing from the southwest of southeast?

The final question is: What are we doing about it? I say here that we must have a deterrent weapon which can be used to inflict the heaviest human losses on anyone who attacks us, thinking that they can go unpunished or undeterred.

This is the theoretical and practical calculation of the possession of the nuclear weapon by any side. We must all strive to keep the Middle East nuclear free.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Therefore, you still rule out the possibility of stopping the Gulf war?

Field Marshal: What is most likely is that the two sides will reach a cease-fire agreement so that there will be a state of no peace, no war, as was the case between Israel and us after the 1967 war and before the October war.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How does the Gulf war affect us?

Field Marshal: Very seriously. First, an Iranian sweep in Iraq, God forbid, would place the 2.5 million Egyptians there in jeopardy.

Second, the entire Gulf region would collapse. We have a lot of Egyptian labor there. Aside from the return home of 3 or 4 million jobless Egyptians, such a development would not be in our best interests. In any case, an upheaval in the Gulf or Iraq certainly does not advance our interests as Egyptians.

Third, an Iranian sweep would provide an opening for Iran to export ideas of violence to Arab states to undermine their internal fronts and force them to do Iran's bidding. I think the Iranians are serious about such goals in Egypt and some Gulf states.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How serious a threat do religious extremists pose to the security of the Armed Forces?

Field Marshal: I think the Armed Forces are secure in this context. There are religious people in the ranks, but no extremists. Things are under control. If we should discover there are one or two extremists, that is no big deal since the task of the Armed Forces is first and foremost to look after the security of Egypt and the Egyptians.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How do you perceive Egypt's role regarding Gulf security?

Field Marshal: I have a particular perception of Egypt's role there. It is not a question of the Egyptian Army going to the Gulf, but what to do there. It is also a question of where and how. When the United States found it lacked Gulf bases, it had to send a sophisticated, floating, administrative unit—so advanced as to be able to instantaneously convert sewage water into potable water. Ideally, the Egyptian Army will not deploy in the Gulf. Believe me, the best interests of all concerned would be served if we help these countries stand on their own feet and cooperate closely with them. Believe me, it serves neither Egypt's nor the Arab bretheren's interests to dispatch the Egyptian Army to the Gulf. It is important that Egypt make a positive contribution to bringing the Gulf war to a close, even if it requires contacts with Iran itself. An Egyptian move toward ending the war now is an exigency. We must also help the Gulf states build their military capabilities in terms of training and organization to ensure stability.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you foresee movement on the question of the Arabs and the AIO?

Field Marshal: God willing, when King Fahd comes to Egypt after 'Id al-Fitr the problem will likely be solved. There are pros and cons in retaining the present status of the organization. Some call for disbanding it; others call for creating another one. There are quite a few viewpoints on the subject. God willing, when King Fahd comes here after 'Id al-Fitr a solution will be worked out.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are there Egyptian military experts in the Arab countries?

Field Marshal: We have such experts in Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Oman, and Iraq. We play a great role and we have military experts.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Regarding Israel's acquisition of the nuclear bomb and the Jericho missile, can the political leadership say that the Soviet Union itself will also be hurt by this?

Field Marshal: The Soviets have protested and said that the Jericho missile is long-range. Everything is possible. We will certainly play any role in limiting the nuclear danger in the region, and we have to exercise our rights.

AL-MUSAWWAR: To what extent will the reduction of the Armed Forces budget affect our combat capability? You have been complaining about the shortage in maintenance appropriations and about the shortage in other appropriations to purchase weapons from military plants which do not work up to their full capacity. Comparisons indicate that the spending on the Egyptian soldier is less than such spending in other countries, which may not be facing the same national security problems.

Field Marshal: This is true, but we are making every effort to promote our energies under the difficult circumstances in Egypt. I believe we have succeeded in persuading the Egyptian soldier that he is not inferior to others. Military service within the Armed Forces has improved despite great budget pressures, due to the national service organ and some revenues from abroad.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is it difficult to increase the budget?

Field Marshal: I believe it is difficult unless we come out of the neck of the bottle and find practical solutions to the production and investment problems in Egypt, in order to increase the state's income and to spend more appropriately on all services, including the Armed Forces. I can further explain the huge revenues of investments that can be added to the national economy. A recent study says that Egyptian savings outside the banks amounts to 28 billion pounds.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you mean the investment fund companies?

Field Marshal: Other than the investment companies. One study indicates that there is more than $30 billion in Egypt. Some people say the amount is $23 billion. Others say it is $30 billion. Let us say that savings with individuals and outside the banks amounts to $23 billion. We have to encourage people to invest these savings. This will occur only if the owners feel that their money is secure. People should not go to the prosecution when they hear a complaint by unidentified people. I hope that the laws will remain in force. Many people believe that if we clearly announce that as of July 1988, the date of the new budget, everybody can invest their savings without being asked about the source, the size of investment will increase. What is important is to invest this money. People can be pardoned for their violations before 1 July 1988 and, as of this date, people should be questioned about the source of their income and about graft.

I believe that tens of billions will be secured to contribute to refreshing the economic situation. What is regrettable now is that we waste our time in following up unknown complaints. I receive between 49,000-50,000 complaints every year. Some complaints say that so and so has fled military service and some other complaints accuse others without evidence. If we spend just 1 hour on each complaint, this means 49,000 working hours just in reading unidentified complaints. Is this logical?

AL-MUSAWWAR: If the Armed Forces budget is 2.116 billion Egyptian pounds, then in your opinion, what is a sound budget for the Armed Forces?

Field Marshal: Anything less than 5 billion pounds a year would force the Armed Forces to face some difficult choices.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What if fighting or a war took place?

Field Marshal (laughing): We will take what we want at the expense of other sectors.

AL-MUSAWWAR: We hear some talk in the street about privileges given to the Armed Forces, such as houses, cars, and other services?

Field Marshal: I also hear such rumors. In fact, I am astonished at such rumors because we do not take from the Armed Forces budget for these services, and because other institutions in our society extend the same services, and maybe more, to their members. Merchants, judges, and journalists do the same thing. Here I would like to ask a specific question: If, as a minister of defense, I am not authorized to find solutions to the problems of personnel of the Armed Forces, then what is the use? With regard to the car issue, many years passed on this subject; we conducted a comprehensive survey for car prices. We signed a contract with Mazda. Customs duty for this car is paid in accordance with the valid laws. We received the cars without a middleman and with the lowest possible cost. Then we sold them to the officers for 6,000 Egyptian pounds each. I would like to ask the other organizations and institutions: Why did they not do as we did?

I will tell you the story of housing in the Armed Forces. The issue began when a new officer graduate came to see me and I knew that he lived with his mother and brothers at the Al-Khafir cemetery because he could not afford to pay much for a decent house. Of course, this officer is in charge of 40 soldiers and equipment worth a million Egyptian pounds. How can I order this soldier to go to war while his family lives at a cemetery? This incident

urged me to interfere to settle the housing problems of officers. This is because the issue is related to the dignity of Egypt as a whole. We took a loan of 55 million pounds from the Housing Bank when we had a piece of property.

I formed a working team that included 20 Army engineers, whose task was to reduce costs as much as possible. They told me the companies increase prices, the engineers union takes 5 percent in fees, and the concrete engineer takes 5 percent of the concrete installations. This is one of the reasons behind the increased consumption of cement and steel in Egypt. The greater the size of the reinforced concrete, the higher the pay received by the engineer. Therefore, some people exaggerate and get the maximum. That is why you see foundations of bridges in Egypt that make the pyramid beside them look like a young child in comparison.

We brought companies and signed contracts. We fixed dates for the transfer over. We told them that we would buy a flat for every officer. We also told them that no matter what the cost, they would pay if the flat was not finished on time.

We prepared comprehensive lists of the officers and noncommissioned officers who did not have suitable accomodation. Of course, there were mistakes and there were some forgeries, but that was a very minor percentage. We have built 38,000 flats so far, not counting the flats built for civilians.

Since the time the project was a mere plan on paper, we began collecting installments from the officers and noncomissioned officers. We set a clear base for the distribution. We said that the housing problem began after 1970, so those who did not have a house from 1971 until the beginning of the project were eligible, with priority given to those married earlier. We said that those eligible should provide all documents that prove that they have no other accomodation. The computer would distribute the flats. From the moment the project area was determined and the plans were drawn, the beneficiary would begin paying installments for a year and a half until he received his flat. We also agreed that we would sell the ground floors as stores so as to reduce expenses. At the begining of the project, the price of a 119 square meter flat was 12,000 Egyptian pounds. Now it has reached 19,000 Egyptian pounds.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is this the cost of the flat or its selling price?

Field Marshal: This is the selling price, without our receiving any profits.

AL-MUSAWWAR: On the basis of this, can the Armed Forces contribute to a solution to the problems of civilians?

Field Marshal: We have carried out some projects to solve the problems of civilians.

AL-MUSAWWAR: You set the price of the flat for more than 40,000 Egyptian pounds.

Field Marshal: This is untrue. When Kamal Hasan 'Ali was the prime minister, I requested the execution of a project for the trade unions. We carried out the project, which consisted of 24,000 flats. The price of a flat ranged between 16,000 and 18,000 Egyptian pounds. All the flats were sold.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But the trade unions project in the Al-Haram is having problems.

Field Marshal: It is not having problems, but regrettably the sewage disposal system has run into trouble. For 1 and 1/2 years we have been asking for this service. We paid all the required money.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the situation regarding the land which was at the disposal of the Armed Forces and now under development, and which was used during war as military facilities?

Field Marshal: By our initiative, we determined the area of the military camps. We also determined the lands which we will not need. We also determined some lands that are considered defense posts. We have spent more than 12 million Egyptian pounds constructing some posts. We are not using them now, but keeping these posts is necessary for an emergency.

We said that these posts should have no buildings around them so that missiles and radar could operate without obstructions. We, therefore, established a safety zone around these posts and said that this zone must not be approached. But I made a mistake, I must admit, when I said that people could plant in that zone. Once we said this, buildings began creeping toward these posts. I immediately stopped everything.

In the delta we have some 400 posts whose owners have been receiving compensation since 1968. But, some people are now demanding payments at the current land value rather than that of 1968. Does it stand to reason? The pieces of land which we need and those which we don't have been marked on maps. We declared some areas to be off-limits to everyone as they include important posts. We had maps charted and sent to government departments 1 and 1/2 years ago.

AL-MUSAWWAR: The locations of housing for our Armed Forces officers is known. Does that not pose a danger to the country?

Field Marshal: In what way?

AL-MUSAWWAR: In the event of war.

Field Marshal: The officers would not then be in their homes.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But their families would.

Field Marshal: And what is the difference between the families of officers and other Egyptians in a state of war? Besides, the camps are full of officers all day long. Maybe you mean "against terrorism." Without exception, every country in the world has its proper military towns. However, we located the military towns in the center of Cairo. Would an aircraft look for block number 405 in Nasir City to hit it?

AL-MUSAWWAR: The Armed Forces housing at Mustafa Kamil camp in Alexandria lacks structural beauty. Are you planning any changes there?

Field Marshal: The buildings were so designed to cut costs.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are there controls on the subsequent sale of officer housing?

Field Marshal: Such sales are illegal. Who said there are no controls? There are controls and there is a ban on selling. It would take a bloated bureaucracy to keep tabs on those who sell and those who do not. We have 14 administrative oversight departments in Egypt as it is. In any case, rest assured. Irregularities are below 1 percent. And whoever is suspected of wrongdoing will be prosecuted and, if proven guilty, will be cashiered, because he would then be unfit to belong to this family.

AL-MUSAWWAR: One final question. What is the news on the Libyan front?

Field Marshal: Nothing new. Do you not believe that they have reduced their forces?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do we have forces there?

Field Marshal: We have observation posts for contingencies.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Maybe Al-Qadhdhafi has forces there.

Field Marshal: The principal Libyan Armed Forces are stationed in the eastern region close to the border.

AL-MUSAWWAR: We thank you for your time and regret that the interview should have been conducted on a hot day during Ramadan.

Field Marshal: I thank you for taking the trouble of coming to the Defense Ministry for the interview.

Morocco

King Hassan Calls Algeria's Bendjedid

LD1705224388 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] A telephone call took place Monday evening between King Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, in which the two leaders exchanged congratulations on the occasion of the happy 'Id al-Fitr and expressed their satisfaction with the results of the recent dialogue between the two fraternal countries.

This applies especially to the normalization of relations between them, which will be, God willing, the beginning of a new era for the two peoples bound by destiny. The two leaders stressed that this normalization will be a starting point for constructive and fruitful cooperation that will benefit the two fraternal peoples.

They also expressed their conviction that the resumption of relations between the two countries will bring good results because it will help consolidate the construction of a greater Arab Maghreb which will contribute to consolidating Arab ranks, which badly need this to face the critical turning point in the Arab arena in the wake of the popular uprising in the occupied territories.

MAP Praises Resumption of Ties With Algeria

LD1705113888 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpts] Rabat, 17 May (MAP) — Morocco and Algeria have decided to resume diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as from yesterday, Monday 16 May.

Political observers have noted that this decision is within the framework of the policy of dialogue pursued by Morocco toward Algeria despite the Sahara conflict which troubled relations between the two countries for 13 years. Thanks to the wisdom and clear-sightedness of King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid, contacts between the two countries did not cease. His majesty the king has always remained keen on maintaining fraternal relations between the peoples of th Arab Maghreb [words indistinct].

At a time when other parts of the world are seeking to form coordinated and harmonious groups, and particularly in Europe where they are preparing the "decade of unity" for 1992, and at a time when the Arab world and the African Continent are facing differences and conflicts, the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries before the Arab emergency summit is not only timely but it is more than that because the action of the Arab Maghreb is of maximum importance to the peoples in general.

Proceeding from this spirit and out of its conviction in the common destiny of the peoples of the Arab Maghreb, Morocco has always done its utmost to avert whatever could have unfavorable results.

Today, Morocco and Algeria, as is the case with other countries of the Arab Maghreb, have every right to feel proud of the policy of wisdom and balance which heralds a better tomorrow for the peoples of the region.

King Hassan Receives UAE Foreign Minister
LD1405152388 Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Rabat, May 13 (MAP)—United Arab Emirates (UAE) Foreign Minister Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah arrived here Friday with a message from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhyyan to King Hassan II of Morocco.

He told reporters the message concerns the situation in the Arab world and preparations under way for the holding of a special Arab summit in Algiers.

The summit scheduled for June 7 will examine Arab support to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

King Hassan II of Morocco Friday received Shaykh Rashid Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, foreign affairs minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Shaykh 'Abdallah is bearing a message from President Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to King Hassan II.

King Hassan Frees Prisoners on 'Id al-Fitr
LD1705031088 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpt] On the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, the Ministry of Justice has issued the following announcement:

His majesty has issued a decree to remit the remaining sentences of 232 prisoners, commute the jail sentences of 211 detainees, pardon or remit the remaining sentences of 33 people while maintaining their fines, pardon and exempt 8 individuals from paying their fines, and commute life sentences into limited imprisonment for 5 prisoners. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister Says Hotel Attackers Came Via FRG
LD1705200188 Khartoum SUNA in French 1525 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 17 May — Mr 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, the minister of culture and information, met today in his office with the chief editors of Khartoum newspapers and the directors of press organs. [passage omitted]

On behalf of the government, the minister condemned the two recent attacks against the Hotel Acropol downtown and the British Club, which killed seven people, including guests of Sudan. He said the criminals had obtained entry visas from our embassy in Kuwait and had arrived in Khartoum via West Germany.

Western Sahara

Polisario Announces Attack on Moroccan Positions
LD1705150988 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Western Sahara — The Polisario Front announces that yesterday it attacked Moroccan military forces at (Ouled Nazzaran) in the south of the country. According to the Polisario Front, the Saharan fighters invaded and occupied for 15 minutes the Moroccan poisitons and killed all of the soldiers and officers there except for one who was taken prisoner.

Communique 'Silent' on Morocco-Algeria Relations
LD1705162088 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpts] A few days before the Arab summit in Algiers, Morocco and Algeria have announced a resumption of their diplomatic relations following a 12-year break.

This is no doubt a landmark in the Western Sahara conflict and the building of the Greater Maghreb. The Saharan Arab Democratic Republic has reacted, asking simply for the recognition of its national rights and announcing an attack on the Moroccan defense wall. [passage omitted]

People have been waiting above all for the reaction of the Polisario Front which is directly involved in what certainly represents a new stage in the Saharan conflict.

A communique from the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic was issued last night, a communique which remains silent about Algeria and this resumption of relations but which recalls its attachment to the peace plan laid down by the United Nations and the OAU.

At the same time, the Polisario announced an attack on the Moroccan defense wall in the Western sahara. More details on these reactions and this communique from Claire Arsenaut-Lerse in Algiers:

[Arsenaut-Lerse] Even though it does not mention the resumption of Algerian-Moroccan diplomatic relations anywhere, the Polisario Front — in a communique issued this morning — expresses satisfaction over any gesture likely to promote trust and defuse the situation.

On 'Id al-Fitr the Saharans are displaying their usual serenity and are showing no surprise at all over the restoration of Algerian-Moroccan diplomatic relations.

For them, the terms used by the Algerians and the Moroccans are positive when they speak about a legal, free, sincere referendum without any constraints.

In its statement, the Polisario reaffirms its attachment to the peace plan of the United Nations and the OAU and recalls that a just and lasting solution lies in a recognition of the Saharan state.

The Polisario, determined to continue the fight, reported an attack on the sixth Moroccan wall at Tichla in the early hours of Monday, an attack which caused 20 deaths on the Moroccan side.

Up to now the Saharans have only published details of major battles, the last of which goes back to the end of January. The publicity surrounding this attack, which is termed a routine operation, proves that the Polisario is anxious, more so than ever, to show it is present on the ground.

UN, OAU Plan Supported

LD1805102388 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] SDAR, 18 May (SPA) — SDAR Foreign Minister Omar Mansour pointed out in a statement published yesterday (Tuesday) by the Saharan Information Ministry that "the Saharan Government declares its firm attachment to the peace plan as specified by the United Nations and OAU concerning decolonization of Western Sahara and stressed anew that these two international bodies represent the sole adequate framework for implementing the aforementioned peace plan."

The statement explained in this respect that "the Saharan Government hails any action that enhances trust, defuses the situation in order to put an end to a war of expansion, and gives new impetus to building the Greater Arab Maghreb."

In his statement, Mr Mansour reiterated that the Saharan Government sees that the just and final solution for the current conflict between the SDAR and Kingdom of Morocco lies in recognizing the national rights of the Saharan state.

Mr Omar Mansour concluded his statement by saying that "the Saharan Government reiterates the determination of the SDAR and its people to continue its legitimate struggle for recovering its sovereignty over all the national territories."

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Visit to GDR 17 May

JN1705185488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1813 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this evening following a visit of several days to the GDR, during which he held talks with ranking GDR officials on friendly bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and issues of common interest to both states.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Lloyds Cited on Tanker Attack

JN1705144088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] The British Lloyds Maritime Insurance Company has announced that the 112,445-tonne tanker, which was attacked by Iraqi aircraft in the Arabian Gulf yesterday, Monday, is called ("Byuston").

The company said that fire broke out in the engine room. The Iranian tanker was attacked by Iraqi planes off the Iranian coast yesterday evening. Ten crewmen were wounded in the attack.

Communique No 3,181

JN1705172588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 May 88

[Communique No 3,181 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, our valiant Armed Forces pray to Almighty God to protect for the people their leader — the one who is vindicating their homeland, their soil, and their sovereignty; the one who is waging a holy war for the sake of maintaining the people's freedom and welfare—namely, His Excellency President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God prolong his life to remain a mujahid for the sake of upholding God's cause, a vindicator of His religion, and a hero working for the sake of achieving victories for the Arab nation and realizing its sublime objectives.

It is a harbinger of good tidings to see this blessed day come at a time when we are marking the passage of 1 month after the great start of our Armed Forces, which carried out the "Ramadan Mubarak" operations through which we liberated the dear territory of Al-Faw and inflicted the gravest defeat on and achieved the greatest victory over the sinister enemy.

Our Armed Forces, which have inscribed the greatest feats of heroism in the history of peoples, pledge to the people and their leader to remain faithful to their principles, defending Iraqi territory and forging victories until the final great victory is achieved and peace is established. This is close at hand. May this day pass with good tidings each year for our great Iraq, under the banner of great Saddam Husayn, the people's leader and the one beloved by this people.

The following is a roundup of our troops' activities for last night and today:

1. Our daring Air Force flew 183 combat missions today, inflicting further losses on the aggressors in the operations sectors. Furthermore, they dealt two successful strikes to two Hawk surface-to-air missile batteries in the northern operations sector at 0730 [0330 GMT] today. Having carried out all of their tasks, all of our aircraft returned safely to base, in God's care and protection.

2. The courageous knights of the helicopter gunships flew 57 combat sorties today, inflicting further losses on the emey in personnel, weapons, and equipment. They then returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base, God be praised.

3. One of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector confronted an enemy patrol that tried to approach its forward positions. This unit killed most of the enemy patrol, while the remainder fled. Elsewhere in the same sector, 2 scoundrels were killed, 11 positions of various types were destroyed, and 2 ammunition dumps were destroyed.

4. Four infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants killed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces. Also, three enemy personnel were killed, one vehicle on which a 106-mm gun was mounted and six infantry positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One shovel [preceding word in English] was destroyed and one enemy vehicle was burned and destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Furthermore, two enemy personnel were killed, two infantry positions, one observation post, and one 106-mm gun were destroyed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. One large vehicle was destroyed and its occupants killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Besides, one infantry position was destroyed and two vehicles were burned and destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The criminal Iranian enemy used long-range artillery last night to shell residential quarters in the hamlet of Darband-i Khan. The enemy shelling injured civilians and damaged their property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 May 1988

Spokesman Denies Bombing

JN1805095188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 May 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)—The military spokesman has described Iranian claims that the Iraqi Air Force bombed residential areas in the northwestern part of Iran as ridiculous.

In a press statement today, the spokesman said the Iranian claims are aimed at justifying Iran's shelling of Iraqi residential areas with long-range artillery. [passage omitted]

General Reportedly Dismissed

JN1805143388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1407 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (WAKH) — The Iraqi RCC has decided to dismiss the commander of the Iraqi Army's 7th Division for not fulfilling his set duties according to the "blessed Ramadan" plan for the liberation of Al-Faw.

A decree issued by RCC Chairman Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and published here today said that Staff Brigadier General Sa'id 'Abd al-Hadi Muhammad Salih, commander of the 7th Division of the Army, was dismissed for not fulfilling his set duties in accordance with the liberation plan in the "blessed Ramadan" operations and for not taking to task the commanders who did not fulfill their duties correctly in the Al-Faw liberation battle.

Forces from the Presidential Guard and the VII Army Corps launched an offensive on 17 April, which resulted after 34 hours in the liberation of the Al-Faw Peninsula and the expulsion of the Iranian forces to the east of Shatt al-'Arab.

Communique No 3,182

JN1805163288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 88

[Communique No 3,182 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force launched successful raids on enemy units in the sectors of operation, inflicting important losses through 98 combat missions. While our hawks were carrying out their missions, they spotted an enemy plane. They directed their missiles at it and downed it near our international border inside enemy territory. Having carried out their missions, all our planes returned safely to base in God's protection.

2. The noble knights of the helicopter gunships today flew 74 combat missions, through which they inflicted on the aggressors new losses in their scoundrels, weapons, and equipment. Our pilots then returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors:

— Killing five of the scoundrels.

— Destroying three infantry positions and one observation post.

— Destroying one mortar.

— Blowing up four ammuniton dumps.

4. Three infantry psoitions and one heavy machinegun were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector of the Allahu Akbar Forces. Three enemy personnel were killed and two infantry positions and two observation posts were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan three infantry positions and one machinegun were destroyed. In the V Army Corps northern sector one observation post was destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

6. Two rafts were destroyed and one vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Six enemy personnel were killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 May 88

Oil Minister Pays Visit to Romania

For Bucharest AGERPRES and INA accounts of the visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania by Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi, Iraqi oil minister, including his meeting with Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania and general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, and the signing of a protocol, please see the Romania section of the 17 May 1988 East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'Terrorist' Infiltration From Jordan Foiled

TA1805044488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] An attempted terrorist squad infiltration was foiled in the Bet She'an Valley last night. One terrorist was wounded and captured and the two others of the squad fled to Jordanian territory. Our forces sustained no casualties. The IDF spokesman reported that the infiltration attempt took place at about 2100 near Kefar Ruppin.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that immediately after a warning was received, an alert was declared in the region. Army forces were rushed to the area, and the routine exercise customary in such cases was carried out in the settlements. One of the three terrorists managed to enter Israelis territory, crossed the border fence, and hid between the road and the fish ponds, about 300 meters away from Kefar Ruppin. The two other terrorists remained on the other side of the border fence.

An IDF patrol arrived at the border fence a short while after receiving the warning. The terrorists then opened fire on them and the soldiers on the patrol returned the fire. As stated, they wounded and captured one of the terrorists, and the other two escaped.

'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, arrived at the site of the incident. He said that over the last 6 months there have been two infiltration attempts from Jordan's border, but he does not estimate that there is a change in Jordan's policy to prevent such infiltrations. Answering a question, Major General Mitzna' said it is still unknown which organization the squad belonged to.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that lively traffic of the Jordanian legion was seen on the Jordanian side of the border. From the Israeli side of the border, it was possible to see the reinforcements that were rushed to the infiltration site. Our correspondent notes that at dawn farmers on both sides of the border left for work in the agricultural areas adjacent to the Jordan River.

Mitzna' on Jordan's Role

TA1805050688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 May 88

[Interview with Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, by Alan Ben-'Ami at Kefar Ruppin on 18 May—recorded]

[Text] [Mitzna'] I remind you that this is now the second time in the last 6 months that there is an attempt to infiltrate on the border between Israel and Jordan. Once again the system that is working here proved itself.

[Ben-'Ami] What about the system on the Jordanian side of the border?

[Mitzna'] Well, as you know, the Jordanians are trying their best to stop terrorists to cross the Jordan. As it was 5 months ago, they failed once again.

[Ben-'Ami] There have been a number of attempts to infiltrate the border with Lebanon in the last few months, now the scene has shifted here to Jordan. Do you think this signals perhaps a new effort by the terrorists to cross the border from Jordan into Israel rather than through the north?

[Mitzna'] It is too early to say. The attempt to infiltrate the border between Israel and Jordan was always. [sentence as heard] The Jordanians caught a few units in the last 6 months in their territory before trying to enter Israel. There always has been, and I think there will be in the future, an attempt to do it once again here in this area.

Peres on Saudi CSS-2's, Danger of Arms Race

TA1805071788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 May 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in Washington on 17 May—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Schiffer] In your talks here in the United States you raised the matter of the missiles Saudi Arabia purchased recently from the PRC. Has this subject been raised in your more intimate talks here in the United States, and what is the danger inherent in these missiles, in your opinion?

[Peres] The answer is yes. This issue was raised in my talks with the Soviets and in my talks with President Reagan and Mr Shultz. I do not see this matter only from the point of view of the buyer but also from that of the seller. There is a danger that these missiles will spread in the Middle East, that the PRC will offer them to other countries as well. This is another weapon in the Middle East that may give the wrong impression of being decisive in battle.

Rather than boosting defense, weapons sometimes whet the appetite for something else completely. I think that one should make every possible effort to prevent a renewal of the arms race in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Shamir on 'Alarming' Arab Weapons Acquisitions

TA1705175288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today warned that governments in this region are making immense investments in sophisticated and advanced weapons systems. He said the latest quantum jump was in the sphere of short- and medium-range ground-to-ground missiles. Shamir was speaking at a Weizman Institute conference held in Jerusalem, and stressed Israel's unswerving commitment to peace, no matter how trying the circumstances.

[Begin Shamir recording] It is strange and most disturbing that while the two superpowers have agreed to limit and destroy medium-range missiles, countries in our region are in the process of acquiring the same missiles in growing quantities. Even more alarming are the reports of the development of poison gas and chemical weapons by Arab governments. The use of such terrible tools of death in the Iran-Iraq war should have triggered an international outcry and prompted a determined action by the civilized world. Governments that use these weapons in contravention of international conventions and basic human morality, should be universally condemned.

We yearn for peace and stability that will enable us to devote our energies to the betterment of human society. But we cannot shut our eyes to the real world that surrounds us. Even countries that are exposed to no real threat to their security are making immense outlays in arms and military equipment. With so much (?flux), violence, and totalitarianism around us we have no alternative but to maintain the power to deter, and if necessary, preempt threats to our security. [end recording]

Peres Holds Talks With Reagan, Other U.S. Leaders

Discusses Peace Process

TA1705181388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has met with U.S. President Reagan. Following the White House meeting, the foreign minister said the President would be personally involved in the Middle East peace process during his forthcoming talks in Moscow. Connie Lonn reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Lonn] Foreign Minister Peres spent about 20 minutes with President Reagan in an Oval Office meeting. Afterwards, he told reporters the President will get personally involved in the Middle East peace process and in the Soviet Jewish situation during the Moscow summit. He was asked whether he expects direct presidential involvement in the coming months.

[Peres] Yes. I think the occasion will really be in the summit meeting to have the Russians adopt the needs of the Middle East, and not the Middle East submitting to ideas that were born in Moscow and which are not necessarily serving the peace process in the area.

I accept to have the talks of an international opening that will not impose a solution or control the negotiations, but will really permit the people of the Middle East to negotiate freely, directly, voluntarily, because peace must be a product of an agreement, not of a dictate.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you expect that to come out of the Moscow summit?

[Peres] I expect it to be raised. I don't know if that can be solved in one jump, but I am convinced it will be continued.

[Lonn] We also asked the foreign minister about the favoritism the Reagan administration appeared to be displaying to him over Prime Minister Shamir, but he would not comment directly on the exceptional warmth of the statements the Reagan officials have been making about him.

In other statements Foreign Minister Peres said it would be a tragedy if the Shultz mission failed. He said the region would be far more dangerous, now that it has the new Chinese toys to play with.

He also expressed opposition to the sale of F-18's to Kuwait, or to any nation at war with Israel.

Earlier, President Reagan said he continued to be persistent in his efforts to gain peace in the Middle East, and he said the books say he is always an optimist. [end recording]

Peres on 'Barriers' to Peace

TA1805063688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by HA'ARETZ correspondent Tzvi Bar'el, in Washington following Peres' meetings with President Reagan and Ambassador Yuriy Dubinin 17 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bar'el] Mr Peres, a short while ago you returned from a meeting with Yuriy Dubinin, the Soviet ambassador in Washington, and he submitted a new document to you. To what extent does this document constitute a breakthrough or a substantive change in the Soviet stance?

[Peres] I am afraid of high-flown language. It contains important changes, but these do not as yet amount to all the changes necessary for me, at least, to live at peace with them.

[Bar'el] The impression given, at least from remarks you as well as Shultz and Reagan made, was that we are in fact beating around the bush with regard to the peace process. Shultz says that nobody said no to his initiative, but nobody said yes either. The fact is that you said yes, that Mubarak said yes, and that Shamir is, in fact, one of the main barriers to the peace process today. Why, in your opinion, is this not said openly?

[Peres] We will leave the internal arguments to be conducted in Israel. Besides, I think we should concentrate on an attempt to overcome outside obstacles. As long as there such obstacles, we should first struggle with them. I also met with an Arab representation in Madrid, telling them that the Arabs' voice for peace is not heard as clearly as it should be if they do indeed want peace. Still, we have an external front on which we should cooperate, and decisions we need to make at home we will make at home.

[Bar'el] Still, the Egyptians are the element that supports the Shultz plan. You too support the Shultz plan, while Shamir does not. To an extent, the agreement on the subject between you and Egypt becomes irrelevant in view of Shamir's rigid opposition.

[Peres] Just imagine that the peace process will peter out. What then? People must think in a responsible manner. No vacuum will be created as a result. The difference between me and other people may lie in that I did not think that the peace process is a nature lovers' excursion on a nice spring day. This is a very hard trip, with numerous obstacles which should be tackled. I am not disappointed by all the existing difficulties.

[Bar'el] You received much praise from President Reagan today, much more than any other Israeli or other leader did. The impression created as a result was that the United States here wanted to pass on a political message to Israel. After all, Shamir was reprimanded here while you were lauded, and it is clear to the Americans that everything is immediately passed on to Israel.

[Peres] If you are referring to elections, I do not think this has any implications whatsoever for elections. I believe that the main point of the upcoming elections will not be a decision between right and left or between this and that candidate. Rather, the Israeli people will have to decide which road Israel will follow, either that of the status quo, which, in my opinion, cannot exist as such at all, or that of a peace process.

The decision will be made based on this key issue. I am very thankful, of course, for the praise conferred on me, but I do not see it as relevant. I think that over time I raised definitely good ideas that promoted the peace cause. With all due modesty, I believe I did earn some of the praise.

Reaction to U.S. Statement on 'Rejectionists'

TA1705190388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] This evening, following the meeting between President Reagan and Vice Prime Minister Peres, the White House issued a communique defining leaders who do not support the Shultz initiative—and this hint refers to Mr Shamir—as rejectionists who consistently reject new ideas.

The prime minister's office this evening unofficially reacted to the White House's statement as follows: In the past we have heard similar remarks by President Reagan, and before we react officially we have to obtain the full version of the White House statement, which has not been received in Jerusalem so far.

Said Aimed at Arab Leaders

TA1705201688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] People in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem are saying that the White House's remarks regarding leaders with a negative attitude toward the peace process were apparently directed against those Arab leaders who stubbornly refuse to negotiate with Israel.

This was the reaction of Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, to the White House spokesman's statement following the meeting between President Reagan and Shim'on Peres. Pazner emphasized, however, that the full version of the White House statement has not arrived in Jerusalem, and that a fuller reaction by the prime minister's office would be possible tomorrow.

Leaders Comments on Peres Visit to Washington

Shamir Camp Unswayed

TA1805082288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] For a week now the prime minister's office has been following Foreign Minister Peres' trips in Europe and in the United States, his contacts with Eastern and Western elements, with a doubtful eye. Shamir's people dismiss reports on a so-called softening in the Soviet stance, nor do they believe in Peres' ability to enlist the U.S. Administration into a more intensive effort around the Shultz plan.

Last night's sharp statement by the White House has apparently not changed this approach by Shamir's office. Neither the compliments for Peres, nor the criticism leveled at the intransigent leaders sway Shamir's people. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, says the White House probably directed its criticism at Arab leaders who have avoided negotiations with us for years now. Besides, the adviser says, the statement contains no deviation from previous U.S. Administration declarations.

A senior source in the prime minister's office estimates that the prime minister is also not expected to be heavily pressured during Shultz' upcoming visit to the region. Shamir's positions are well known to Shultz, and the latter's visit is primarily aimed at maintaining an active U.S. presence in the region.

It should be emphasized that the base of Shultz' upcoming trip to the Middle East is Cairo rather than Jerusalem. He intends to remain only a few hours in Israel, on 5 June, a Sunday. He will then hold his meetings with the prime minister and the defense and foreign ministers. Immediately afterward Shamir will take off to participate in a special UN General Assembly session dedicated

to disarmament. As an observer in Jerusalem says, if Shultz wants to continue the negotiations with Shamir, he will have to seek him out in New York.

Levi Urges Peres' Recall

TA1805100388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 88

[Telephone interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by program moderators Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning to you. The prime minister's media adviser believes that the White House's statement on stubborn leaders who prevent progress toward peace negotiations is not directed at Yitzhaq Shamir, but rather at those Arab leaders who have for years refused to sit down at the negotiating table with Israel. Do you understand this differently?

[Levi] Well, an adviser can interpret things in whatever way he thinks is right, in his opinion. Still, any person who listens carefully can draw only one conclusion: In contrast with the praises conferred on the foreign minister for a position which runs counter to the prime minister's, we have, in fact, a declaration against the prime minister.

[Friedman] And this is not right, you mean; namely, can the Americans not say this against Shamir when at other times, if you recall, they have lauded him?

[Levi] When one praises the prime minister, one in fact identifies oneself with the Israeli Government's policy. As for the matter at hand, it is known that the prime minister's position is against the international conference. A foreign minister who appears before the U.S. Administration and in fact supports what has been ruled out by the prime minister, especially at election time, is intolerable. He harms state interests. Therefore, we should adopt the same measure that is taken by any responsible regime when its foreign minister does not speak for the policy exercised by the prime minister: He must be recalled.

[Dan] It is known though that disagreements are nothing new, and each side is representing its position.

[Levi] This is true, except for this anomaly which is turning into the government's or rather the country's political criteria. This is damaging to correct government rules.

[Dan] Are you attributing this anomaly to the foreign minister, of all people?

[Levi] I am attributing it to the odd situation in which we find ourselves, a situation which should be stopped in my opinion. This would be a tragicomedy, were it not a country we are talking of. Therefore, we must not, particularly on the eve of elections, turn the government into an election campaign committee with state tools. Mr Peres met with U.S. Administration leaders, including the President, and received praise for a position which runs counter to the prime minister's. He promotes an issue which has never been adopted by the government, and for dessert, he will continue to raise funds for his party. I think this matter should be stopped immediately.

[Friedman] Still, when Shultz made similar remarks of his own accord after meeting Shamir in Washington a few months ago, without Peres having been in the area...[changes thought] Even Shamir's media adviser says the announcement contains elements which have been mentioned in the past. Do you indeed believe that Peres dictated the statement to the White House's spokesman?

[Levi] I do not accept the word dictated. I can say that the very act and move led to acceleration in declarations that are incompatible with the government's position.

[Friedman] Still, as you well know, on the international conference issue the Israeli Government has not made a decision. It is in fact incapable of making a decision, and there will always then be two foreign policies on this issue, at least.

[Levi] You see that we have here been locked into a sort of acceptance of this strange situation. In every correct government, in any regime, as long as a decision has not been made, an issue which has not been approved cannot be promoted. We are exercising indifference here, as if anybody could do as he pleases in the absence of a decision. This is unacceptable in a correct regime.

[Friedman] Incidentally, have you already heard any reaction from the prime minister to your call to recall Peres? Does he support this?

[Levi] I am going to see him this morning.

[Friedman] We may know of Shamir's position by noon then. Thank you Minister David Levi.

Moda'i Attacks Peres in Cabinet

TA1805104988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] During the Inner Cabinet meeting today, Minister Moda'i attacked Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in connection with the statement issued by the White House in Washington last night.

Moda'i asked how it is possible that a senior Israeli Cabinet representative stands by when the prime minister is condemned, and does not react on the spot, unless the statement was issued in agreement with him. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Moda'i's remarks did not receive a reply in the Inner Cabinet meeting.

Document Outlines Soviet Position on Conference

TA1805065988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 88

[Report from Washington by HA'ARETZ correspondent Tzvi Bar'el]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ended his visit to Washington a few hours ago, with a Soviet document in his hands. Even if this document does not mean a breakthrough, it still is quite a novelty.

During the evening Shim'on Peres met with Yuriy Dubinin, the Soviet ambassador in Washington, who passed on to him the points of the Soviet stance in writing. The main point of the Soviet stance, according to a source in Peres' party, is the lack of a demand for a coercive international conference and readiness to settle for infrequent periodic briefings of the UN Security Council members by the bilateral committees. The document still insists that the Palestinians be granted the right to self-determination, and views the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Still, while Peres' aides express enthusiasm about the document, the foreign minister adopted a more cautious position, definining it as only a movement. It should be noted that in all their meetings with Israelis and Americans the Soviets never used the term "coercive" international conference. They only took exception to the term "ceremonial" conference. It seems that the main novelty of the document is the very fact it was written down, and the hint is that it is also subject to discussion and changes.

Peres left Washington after he received an overdose of praise and appreciation for his peace ideas and initiative. President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz went out of their way to make it publicly clear whose opinion in Israel is more acceptable to them. While Reagan described Peres as a courageous and wise person, he issued, without naming, a strong warning to the leaders who refuse to adopt the U.S. initiative.

Reagan promised Peres he will discuss with Gorbachev the peace process and the resumption of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations, as well as the issue of Soviet Jews' emigration and the freedom to practice their religion. The assessment in Washington though is that neither the summit, nor the subsequent Shultz visit to the Middle East, will promote the process.

'Breakthrough' Seen With Soviets

TA1805051888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] The highlight of Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Washington was a meeting with President Reagan and 1-hour meeting with Soviet Ambassador Yuriy Dubinin. The meeting took place at Edgar Bronfman's house. Mr Peres was escorted to the meeting by Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad and his political adviser, Nimrod Novik. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from Washington.

[Begin recording] The updated Soviet position on the international conference issue shows new flexibility and comes close to the U.S. and Peres' concept. This was concluded last night by sources in the foreign minister's entourage who participated in the meeting with the Soviet ambassador. The flexibility is reflected in two spheres: The Soviets no longer talk of a conference with coercive powers, nor do they insist that the conference convene frequently during the negotiations between the sides. On the Palestinian representation question, the Soviet stance is continuing to use ambiguous and confusing language regarding their intentions: self-determination for the Palestinians together with the participation of the Palestinian Arabs in the negotiations in a framework they themselves will determine.

Mr Peres raised the continued delays in granting entry visas to the USSR to the Israeli consular delegation slated to go to Moscow. His Soviet interlocutors said they will check on the matter. According to some of the Israeli participants in the meeting, the possibility of a visit to Moscow by Mr Peres was not raised during the talk. It still seems that the foreign minister takes advantage of every possible avenue to obtain such an invitation. The assessment prevalent in his entourage: A breakthrough will be achieved in Israeli-Soviet relations within 3 months. [end recording]

NEWSWEEK Report on Arms to Contras Denied

TA1705110488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 May 88 p 2

[Report by Ya'aqov Eylon, Ilan Kfir, and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Israeli Government sources have categorically denied NEWSWEEK's publication involving Israel in arms transfers to the contras. Rabin said: "As far as I know, I am not on the NEWSWEEK staff, and you will therefore have to ask the correspondents responsible for this report."

Israeli sources estimated, however, that it is not inconceivable that private Israeli arms merchants were indeed party to the weapons supply to the Nicaraguan rebels, and that they could have been aided by the good services of Panama. The sources claim that if Mike Harari, who retired from the Mosad several years ago, was involved in the affair, he must have done so as the Panamanian president's senior adviser.

Syria's 'Dilemma' in Beirut Suburb Analyzed

JN1705170488 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 17 May 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] The Damascus rulers announced on their radio yesterday that Syria has decided to impose order in the southern suburb of Beirut and that Syria alone will decide

when and how that will take place. This Syrian announcement implies that Syria has the say and that it is the only power holding all the threads in the southern suburb of Beirut, and Lebanon as a whole. However, this implication is groundless, indefensable bragging, and an allegation.

Khomeyni's Iran has, for a long time, been an operational force competing for influence in Lebanon through the Hizballah militias. The recent clashes in the southern suburb of Beirut are a new climax in the collision of Syrian and Iranian ambitions in Lebanon. The bloody clashes between the Amal and Hizballah militias embody the bloody confrontation and power struggle in Lebanon, which is being carried out on behalf of the Damascus and Tehran rulers.

It is not incorrect to say that the Tehran rulers are superior to the Damascus rulers in the southern suburb of Beirut and that they are in a position to blackmail the Damascus rulers. The Damascus rulers face a dilemma in daring to deploy their troops in the southern suburb of Beirut without an agrement and understanding with the Tehran rulers. This is a step they have not dared to take in the past 15 months, since their troops were deployed in west Beirut in February 1987.

The dilemma facing the Damascus rulers is if their troops enter the southern suburb without an agreement and understanding, it will, according to all indications, result in bloodshed and armed confrontation with the Hizballah militias. This will also reflect on the Syrian-Iranian alliance. But if the Damascus rulers do not reach an agreement and refrain from deploying their troops despite all their harsh threats, the esteem of Al-Asad's Syria will deteriorate sharply and the Damascus rulers will be humiliated on the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels, not to mention their disappointment to the Amal Movement.

In view of this dilemma, it becomes clear that the ideal solution for the Damascus rulers is to reach an understanding and an agreement with the Tehran rulers which allows Syrian forces to be deployed in the southern suburb without an armed confrontation. Most likely, the Damascus rulers are ready to pay a price to the Tehran rulers, or more precisely, they are prepared to yield to the reasonable extortion that might be exercised by the Tehran rulers. An ideal solution will guarantee the following central objectives for Syria:

1. Avoiding the killing of any Syrian soldiers;

2. Maintaining its alliance with Khomeyni's Iran;

3. Not losing esteem or dignity and not failing the Amal Movement; and

4. Subjugating Hizballah politically and morally until further notice.

In light of all these facts, it becomes obvious that the interests of Lebanon and its people are nonexistent in the calculations and wagers of the Damascus and Tehran rulers. It also becomes very obvious that the Lebanese people with all their sectors have been and are still the greatest tragic victims.

Knesset Motion To Annex Jordan Valley Defeated

TA1805105488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] A short while ago the Knesset struck off its agenda a proposal by Knesset Member Hayim Kaufman on the issue of extending Israeli sovereignty to the Jordan Valley. Kaufman claimed that the Alignment is revoking its commitment not to return the Jordan Valley even in the framework of a peace settlement. In response, Deputy Minister Roni Milo, the government's representative, said that annexing the Jordan Valley would violate the coalitional agreement and the Camp David Accords.

Interior Ministry Approves Hungarians' Employment

TA1305132188 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 May 88 p 23

[Text] The Interior Ministry has authorized the entry of foreign workers from Hungary according to standard procedures of employing foreign workers.

The proposal to provide some 1,000 Hungarian workers was made by a Hungarian manpower company through its agent in Germany to the Israeli firm Gefen Manpower Resources, and was submitted to the Foreign Ministry and the Employment Service for examination. The Interior Ministry first ordered the processing of the proposal suspended, but changed its mind at the beginning of the week, the day Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in Budapest.

Shomron, Bar-Lev Brief Cabinet on Territories

TA1605061088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 May 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev and the IDF Chief of General Staff Rav Aluf [Lieutenant General] Dan Shomron both asserted yesterday that the number of hostile incidents provoked by the ongoing turmoil in the territories had lessened further during the past week.

Shomron, speaking at the weekly cabinet session because Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had stayed home with a chill, said that tension in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip appeared to be slackening slightly with each successive week.

He also said that the distribution of new identity cards in the Gaza Strip seemed to be progressing according to plan.

Bar-Lev said that 24 of the 31 disturbances recorded had taken place during the past week in and around Jerusalem, with most of the rest in Galilee.

The police minister noted that extremely large numbers of policemen have been moved to Jerusalem from around the country in order to enforce law and order as Ramadan comes to an end and the Ramadan 'Id al-Fitr celebrations begin, as well as to keep the peace over Jerusalem Day. He said that while Thursday night and Friday had brought 9,000 and 15,000 Muslim worshippers, respectively, to the Temple Mount, the disturbances had been contained without too much difficulty.

He said that the only development which caused some concern was that on both days a number of worshippers remained behind on the Mount to demonstrate after the vast majority left peacefully.

Ya'aqobi Warns of 'Uprising' Impact on Economy

TA1705074788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 May 88 p 8

[Text] Economics and Planning Minister Gad Ya'aqobi yesterday scored his colleagues in the government, who are giving the impression that the economy has not suffered from the uprising in the territories.

Security costs have soared by $400 million, he said, while expenditures by the Police Ministry for stepped-up law enforcement has risen $130 m. Revenues from tourism have slid by 15 per cent to 20 per cent, while El Al's monthly income is down 15 per cent, Ya'aqobi said, listing the economy ills. Construction activity has fallen 20 per cent, agriculture by 3 per cent and industrial production by 2 per cent.

Additional reserve duty imposed by the IDF is taking its toll on industry, Ya'aqobi said. Nonetheless, he asserted, he would support all efforts towards budgetary increases for both the Defence and Police Ministries. "Any alternative," he said, "would be difficult and disastrous."

Ya'aqobi also warned that Israel's widening balance-of-payments deficit was threatening the overall health of the economy. Over the past one-and-a-half years, the gap has grown by $1.3 billion, he recalled at a press conference in Jerusalem.

Unrest, Related Incidents in West Bank, Gaza

Hebron Dies of Beating Wounds

TA1605104688 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 May 88 p 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Ibrahim Abu 'Aysha, a resident of Hebron who was severely beaten in the middle of last week, died of his wounds yesterday in an East Jerusalem hospital. His family said that he had been beaten by settlers, who hit his head with iron clubs. His son, who was an eyewitness, said that the settlers fled in the direction of Qiryat Arba'. Israeli defense sources have said, however, that the man was beaten by the uprising "beating force" as punishment for his attempt to break a strike by attending a workers meeting. The deceased man's family denies this version, saying that Ibrahim Abu 'Aysha was a textile merchant who sold his wares in a market and that he broke no strike.

IDF Vehicle Target of Bombing

TA1605093788 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 May 88 p 1

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami]

[Text] A roadside bomb exploded last week near a military vehicle in the vicinity of the Dolev settlement, west of Ramallah. This is the first time since the beginning of the uprising in the territories that Arab residents have planted a roadside bomb aimed at an IDF vehicle. The charge went off between 1 and 2 May, after midnight.

The homemade bomb, which was aimed at an IDF patrol car, missed its target.

This was, as said, the first incident of the kind since the beginning of the intifadha [uprising] in the territories.

Bayta Suspect Remanded 18 Days

TA1605125988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] A military court remanded Munir al-Salah Da'ud, from Bayta, for an additional 18 days. She is suspected of having beaten Romam Aldubi in the head when he was escorting a group of settlers hiking. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the prosecutor stated that whether the woman can be charged with causing the death of the girl Tirza Porat, who was killed by the settler's gun, is still being investigated. The prosecutor said that within 2-weeks she will be charged with assault in grave circumstances.

Gaza Curfews; Al-Shati' Closed

TA1705053788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 May 88

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] Quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip last night. The curfew was lifted from the Al-Shati' refugee camp but the camp was declared a closed military area, allowing the residents to move freely within its boundaries. A curfew was imposed last night on Bayt Hanun and Bayt Lahiyah in the northern Gaza Strip, as well as on a Rafah neighborhood, in order to prevent a repetition of the disturbances which occurred there yesterday.

Due to 'Id al-Fitr laborers are not leaving for work in Israel, and this is noticeable in plants and services in Israel.

All the five soldiers who were hurt by stones in the course of dispersing riots in the Gaza Strip yesterday were released from the Ashqelon and Beersheba hospitals and sent back to their units. Two of the four wounded residents of Jabalyah who had been hospitalized in Gaza were also discharged.

The security forces are adopting measures this morning to prevent the recurrence of riots. There is a somewhat larger traffic of local vehicles in the area towns, particularly of people paying holiday visits to friends and relatives.

Qalandiyah Resident Shot

TA1705103288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpt] This report from the territories just in: A resident of the Qalandiyah refugee camp was shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers. Steve Rodan reports:

The incident took place in the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem a short while ago. A Qalandiyah resident wanted to leave the camp in his car. The camp has been under curfew this week, and soldiers prevented the car from leaving. Military sources said the Qalandiyah resident left his vehicle and attacked the first soldier he saw and tried to grab his weapon. The other soldier in the patrol fired and badly wounded the Qalandiyah resident. He was then taken to a hospital in Ramallah.

The rest of the territories were reported quiet this morning. No serious incidents or injuries have been reported in Judaea and Samaria or in the Gaza Strip, except for the Qalandiyah incident. Muslim worshippers left the mosques this morning and returned home without incident. The Army responded by removing some of the curfews imposed after yesterday's violence. [passage omitted]

Israeli Wounded in W. Bank

TA1705073388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 May 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Bradley Burston]

[Excerpt] IDF troops shot and killed two Palestinians and wounded at least 12 others in widespread clashes in the territories on the first day of the Moslem 'Id al-Fitz festival.

At the Qalandiyah refugee camp early yesterday morning, Yaron Betzal'eli, 26, a Jerusalem contractor, was seriously wounded in the head when he was hit by a rock thrown at his car on the Jerusalem-Ramallah highway. After he was hit, Betzal'eli's car went off the road and smashed into a wall. He suffered a fractured skull and was undergoing surgery last night at the Hadassah Hospital in 'En Karem. [passage omitted]

100 Released on 'Id al-Fitr

TA1705171388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] On the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, the Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip has decided to release 100 people detained during disturbances. Some of them were released earlier today and the rest will be released tonight. During the day many Gaza shops were open and many families went to the beach. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew remains in effect in the Jabalyah refugee camp, the towns of Bayt Hanun and Bayt Lahiyah, and in one neighborhood of Rafah.

Youth Killed in Ramallah Area

TA1805091388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] An Arab youth was killed in the course of a riot in the village of Abu 'Ayn in the Ramallah district this morning. This is reported by our correspondent Steve Rodan. For the time being there are no details about the circumstances of the incident in which the youth was killed.

10 Wounded Near Ramallah

TA1805105188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] An Arab was killed and 10 others injured this morning by Army fire in Kafr 'Ayn near Ramallah. More from reporter Steve Rodan:

The incident began about 0930 this morning. An Army patrol entered the village of Kafr 'Ayn, north of Ramallah, to make arrests of suspected inciters and organizers of the Palestinian unrest. Within minutes after soldiers arrived in the village, they were surrounded by scores of Arab residents, who pelted the soldiers with stones. The commander gave the order for his men to fire.

The result: one Arab was killed, and the latest reports say 10 people were injured. Hospital sources said one woman was shot in the head and is now in critical condition in the Al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem. Others were shot in the stomach and chest, and they are now in Ramallah Government Hospital.

At this hour, senior army officers are in Kafr 'Ayn and the neighboring village of 'Arurah to investigate the incident. The area has been closed.

The shooting shattered the calm in the Ramallah area, and it again raised questions of the potential for violence remaining in Judaea and Samaria. On Monday, authorities are scheduled to open kindergartens and grade schools for 200,000 pupils in the territories. Still, there were no other reports of clashes in the rest of Judaea and Samaria.

The Gaza Strip was reported quiet as well. A curfew remains on the refugee camp of Jabalyah. Military sources said some stores are open in the Gaza Strip, and many Gaza motorists are on the road—this on the last day of the Muslim festival of 'Id al-Fitr.

Soldiers' Sentences Halved in 'Bulldozer Affair'

TA1705162888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] The military appeal court has reduced the sentence of Ya'ir Nisimi and Dror Segen Kohen, who were involved in the bulldozer affair [in which soldiers covered Arabs alive with sand]. Nisimi received 2 and 1/2 months in prison, while Segen Kohen will serve 2 months. Their sentence was thus reduced by 50 percent. The two will be soon released, having served most of their prison term.

'Change' in IDF Spokesman's Policy Noted

TA1605090988 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 May 88 p 1

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] A reserve soldier was wounded last night by an Arab in the village of Dura al-Qar', neighboring on the Ramallah district Al-Jalazun refugee camp. The IDF spokesman, who confirmed the incident only after being asked by a DAVAR correspondent, noted that he no longer volunteers statements regarding incidents in which soldiers are wounded by Arab residents of the territories. He said he merely confirms the incidents when asked by reporters.

The DAVAR correspondent notes that this approach heralds a change in the IDF spokesman's policy of issuing announcements regarding soldiers wounded in the process of riots in the territories. [passage omitted]

Bethlehem College Department Head Arrested

TA1805052988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Dr Jad Ishaq, the head of the Biology Department at Bethlehem College, has been arrested. Arab sources told the Voice of Israel reporter that they feared that the arrest will begin a wave of arrests among academics from universities in the territories.

DEREKH HANITZOTZ Publisher Arrested

TA1805052688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] The publisher of the DEREKH HANITZOTZ [THE WAY OF THE SPARK] newspaper, Asaf Adiv, has been detained during an interview to a foreign television station. Tomorrow, a Tel Aviv district court will hear an appeal against the detention of DEREKH HANITZOTZ journalists Roni Ben-Efrat, Hadas Lahav, and Mikhal Schwartz. Authorities say the newspaper is connected with the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine—DFLP] terror group.

Syrians Reportedly Discover Hostages' Location

'Great Surprise' Predicted

NC1805072488 Cairo MENA in English 0708 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 18 (MENA)—A prominent Syrian security source said the Syrian intelligence service in Lebanon had discovered the detention place of foreign hostages in Lebanon. The source told AL-ITTIHAD newspaper that the hostages were now kept in the basement of a public garden in the southern suburb of Beirut, used as an underground prison and containing several small windowless cells.

On the other hand, a prominent Lebanese political source speculated that a great surprise will take place as regards foreign hostages in Lebanon. The source told AL-ITTIHAD that there is a trend within the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement to release the foreign hostages before the Syrian military deployment in the southern suburb, adding that Tehran is now holding intensive contacts with the Hizballah leaders in Lebanon to terminate this issue shortly.

U.S. Hostages Reportedly Moved

LD1805081488 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, 18 May (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA' said here today that all the American hostages in Lebanon have been transferred to the Iranian Embassy in Beirut following the eruption of armed conflict in the southern parts of Beirut between Amal militias and Hizballah.

It added, in a report from Washington quoting a U.S. source close to events in the Middle East: "The U.S. authorities are currently trying through secret contacts to reach an agreement with Tehran for the release of those hostages." The Kuwaiti daily did not, however, give any further details.

Some Hostages in Bi'r al-'Abd

NC1805124088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1225 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Voice of Lebanon has learned from security sources that the foreign hostages are in the southern suburb, specifically in a building near the Dar al-Hawra' Hospital in the Bi'r al-'Abd area. Earlier, sources had told our radio that some of the hostages had been moved to the Iranian Embassy.

Iran, Syria Agree To Reactivate 4-Party Committee

Besharati, Kan'an Comment

NC1705141388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] A meeting held at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut was attended by Mohammad 'Ali Besharati, Iran's deputy foreign minister; the Iranian ambassadors to Lebanon and Syria; and Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon.

Following the meeting, Kan'an said that an agreement was reached on reactivating the 4-member committee and having it convene in order to implement the points agreed on with regard to controlling the gunmen and restoring the situation in the suburb to normal. He added: I feel that the Iranian brothers are very serious.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati said: We agreed with Brigadier General Kan'an on all matters and on the need to eliminate the consequences of what has taken place in the southern suburb. An agreement was reached on consolidating the cease-fire, and we are now studying the means for eliminating the consequences of what took place.

Besharati added that there are plans for compensating those who have suffered from the painful events in the suburb.

Further on Kan'an Statement

NC1705142588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpt] Following his meeting held in the Iranian Embassy, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, has said: There is now a permanent cease-fire, which we have communicated to the two parties. We agreed to reactivate the 4-member committee; we set the venue for its meeting, and decided to have it meet later. The agreement calls for withdrawing the gunmen and for restoring the situation to normal.

Kan'an also said: I feel that the Iranian brothers are serious, and we too are serious in seeking all the means to overcome this tribulation. We hope to reach the appropriate formula and to call on all evacuees to return after we have become convinced that this could be done through discussions by the two parties.

Brig Gen Kan'an said: We are seeking the ways and the endeavors to stop the fighting. We and the Iranian brothers support any serious effort in this regard. We will step up the pace of the committee work, we will exert all possible pressures, and we will take the appropriate measures so that these incidents will not recur. [passage omitted]

More on Meeting

JN1705142888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who held talks with Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian military intelligence, at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut today, announced that it is not necessary for Syria to intervene militarily in the southern suburb of Beirut in order to put an end to the battles between the Amal Movement and Hizballah militias. Besharati said: We and the Syrian brothers are worried about what is going on in the suburb, and we must work together to avoid problems and differences.

For his part, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an announced: We are looking for solutions and hoping for success. Answering a question on the reasons for the delay in the Syrian forces entry into the southern suburb, Brig Gen Kan'an was satisfied with saying: We are looking for all means to find a solution if there is a desire for a solution.

Shams al-Din Rejects Committee

NC1705171488 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council in Lebanon, has declared that he rejects the revival of the quadripartite committee. He said: We have provided all possible opportunities to all proposals, ideas, and methods for a solution. All have failed. Our view is clear. It is necessary to expand West Beirut's security plan to include the southern suburb. In our view, Shaykh Shams al-Din added, any other solution would mean a continuation of the tragedy. He declared: As far as I am concerned, what is important is the (?independence) of those who support the expansion of the security plan. Our stand is firm, and it is the stand of all Muslims.

Demonstrations Urge Cease-Fire

NC1705212288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Three demonstrations were staged tonight. The first headed toward the Beau Rivage Hotel, and the second toward the Iranian Embassy. [Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1945 GMT on 17 May adds that as the demonstrators went to the Syrian observers' headquarters in Al-Ramlah al-Bayda', "Syrian occupation forces fired in the air to disperse the demonstrators, who had insisted on meeting with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an after they were told that he was not available."]

The third demonstration attempted to proceed to the house of Speaker Husayn al-Husayni but was fired on at the entrance to the Harat Hurayk area from the Hayy Farahat side. One woman and her daughter were slightly injured, but the demonstrators continued toward Al-Husayni's house. The demonstrators called on Syrian and Iranian officials and on Al-Husayni to speed up the search for a solution to the problem.

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached

NC1805063788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] The quadripartite committee ended its meeting at the Beau Rivage Hotel at 2315 last night. It was agreed that a comprehensive and final cease-fire agreement would be put into effect as of 2330. A statement issued after the meeting said that if there were any violation of the cease-fire, this would be regarded as directed against the Syrian Arab forces.

Hizballah Withdraws From Observation Committee

NC1805152488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] The Amal Movement accused Hizballah gunmen of not abiding by the cease-fire agreement reached at 2300 yesterday.

Regarding the resumption of clashes, an Amal security source has stated the following: The cease-fire agreed up on by the four-party committee last night called for representatives from each side to be at the Syrian observers' headquarters to observe the commitment to the cease-fire. But Hizballah continued its provocations throughout the night. The Syrian observers were notified of this, and the Hizballah representatives withdrew from the observation committee at 0300 today.

Besharati Talks With Shi'ite, Government Leaders

Talks with Fadlallah

LD1705163088 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 17, IRNA—Iran's Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived here Monday afternoon to continue the Islamic Republic's efforts for putting an end to the bloody clashes between Amal and Hizbollah groups.

Shortly after his arrival, Besharati conferred with prominent Lebanese religious leader Al-'Allamah Seyyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah as well as head of the Supreme Shi'ite Council Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din on the latest developments in Beirut.

Also present at the meetings were Iranian ambassadors to Beirut and Damascus Ahmad Dastmalchian and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, respectively.

Meets with Al-Huss

NC1805105088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Mohammad Besharati, representative of the Iranian president, declared following a meeting with Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss that Syrian forces will not enter the southern suburb. He said: Maybe there are certain Lebanese parties who want Syrian forces to enter, but most Lebanese do not. He noted that political contacts to end the clashes are continuing.

Besharati is currently meeting with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an at the Beau Rivage Hotel. The four-party committee will meet at the Beau Rivage Hotel at 1230, with Besharati attending. Means of restoring calm to the suburb will be discussed.

Sporadic clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen are continuing around Al-Ghubayrah, Harat Hurayk, and on Al-Hujjaj and Marun Misk streets in Al-Shiyah. Machineguns and rockets are being used in the clashes.

Clashes Continue; Amal Holds Rally in Tyre

NC1705115488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Clashes between Hizballah and Amal militiamen took a violent turn in Al-Ghubayrah, Harat Hurayk and Al-Shiyah as of 1200 today. The situation is especially violent in Marun Misk and Al-Hujjaj, where explosions are echoing around the combat lines. Mortars, rockets, and machineguns are being used. Hizballah positions in the southern suburb are being shelled from the areas of 'Aramun and Al-Awza'i.

The four-member committee began a meeting in the Syrian observers headquarters at 1200. While the meeting was still in session, a committee source was expecting the release of a statement, which he described as important, setting a time for Syrian entry. The conferees are reportedly awaiting the arrival of Amal representatives at the Iranian Embassy.

In another development, Syrian T-54 tank movement was observed at noon today along the airport road.

Meanwhile, security sources in Tyre have said that a huge demonstration, comprising tens of thousands of people, has been staged in Tyre. According to the sources, the demonstrators voiced support for Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri and demanded Syrian entry into the suburb.

Da'ud Addresses Rally

NC1705132688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpts] Popular delegations from numerous villages in the South today visited the Amal Movement's office in Al-Nabatiyah and expressed their support for the movement, Minister Nabih Birri, and the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council. The delegations expressed dismay over the incidents in Beirut and hailed the Syrian decision to send troops into the southern suburb to save its inhabitants from the insidious infighting. [passage omitted]

This morning, a massive demonstration was held in Tyre in support of the Amal Movement, the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, and Minister Nabih Birri. The demonstrators, who were carrying Lebanese and Amal flags, placards of support, and pictures of Minister Nabih and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, shouted slogans, such as the following: Yes to the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council; Yes to Amal; Yes to the bearer of the trust; No Custodianship, except to the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council and the Amal Movement; and the town of Al-Sadr and the stronghold of Brother Nabih Birri supports the October hero [President Hafiz al-Asad].

At midday, the demonstrators gathered in the main square in Tyre, where they listened to a speech by Da'ud Da'ud, chairman of the Amal Movement's Executive Committee. Da'ud said:

To those who wanted to use the fighting in the suburb to blackmail the South, its cause, and its inhabitants, we tell them that the South has had its word in the streets, at home, and in this demonstration. The South has said no to the pressure. We tell them that the South is standing up for itself. Amal considers itself responsible for the South, in the absence of state power and state justice. No power in the world will dissuade us from playing this role.

Da'ud added: The institutions formed by Imam Musa al-Sadr, namely the Amal Movement and the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, will remain the only framework representing Lebanese Shi'ites, regardless of how much money is paid and how many souls are bought. Those who think there is a religious pretext for killing us have no place among us. Let them understand that Nabih Birri is not battling for himself but for the South, a responsibility which he shares with the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council.

Some people in Bi'r al-'Abd [in Beirut's southern suburb] once asked: Who sanctioned the confiscation of the Islamic resistance's weapons? It is our turn to ask them: Who sanctioned the raids on Al-Nabatiyah and Al-Ghaziyah?

Da'ud concluded with a plea to President Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of the Arab world who has saved West Beirut, to save the suburb from the malefactors. Da'ud said: We will stand beside Al-Asad's Syria in the struggle against Israel and for the liberation of the Arab land.

5 Killed, 35 Wounded in Suburb

NC1705161488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Violent fighting is taking place between Amal and Hizballah in the southern suburb, particularly in Harat Hurayk, Al-Ghubayrah, and Al-Shiyah. The two warring sides are also trading intensive artillery fire, with some shells falling in areas in West Beirut. According to security sources, Hizballah is returning the fire of Amal artillery emplacements in Ard Jallul, which are shelling the suburb. Among other targets, Hizballah artillery fire is directed at the Cocodi area near the airport. According to medical sources, today's casualty toll stands at 5 killed and 35 wounded.

Lebanese Forces Infiltration Foiled

NC1805062488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] A guarded calm prevails over Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah this morning. Sporadic clashes erupt now and then, but no advances have been made. Yesterday's fighting left 8 dead and well over 45 injured.

In a statement released yesterday evening, Hizballah said that its forces repulsed an infiltration attempt by Lebanese forces groups on the Al-Mu'allim combat line. The statement said that the Bi'r al-'Abd and Al-Ruways areas in the southern suburb came under artillery bombardment from East Beirut after the incident, leaving one dead and several others wounded. The statement also said that Amal Movement artillery in Ra's al-Nab' and Al-Tayyunah, outside the suburb, bombarded Burj al-Barajinah, Al-Tahwitah, and Cocodi, causing a number of casualties.

Nabih Birri To Meet With Al-Asad 17 May

NC1705141288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] It has been learned from well-informed sources that Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon to review the conditions and the developments in the southern suburb.

An Amal Movement Political Bureau delegation met earlier with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who mentioned the Syrian leadership's eagerness to end the tragedy of the southern suburb as soon as possible and in a radical manner. During the protracted meeting that was held in the Syrian capital today, the discussions centered on the Syrian entry into the southern suburb.

Syrians 'Will Enter' Suburb

NC1705203888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 MAY 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri returned from Damascus tonight. He said that President Hafiz al-Asad has assured him that Syria will enter the southern suburb and will give political negotiations all possible opportunities to prevent a security incident during the deployment.

Syrian Defense Minister Arrives in Beirut 18 May

Confirms Syrian Entry

NC1805140188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1341 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas arrived in Beirut this afternoon on a visit during which he will hold talks regarding the current situation in Lebanon, particularly in the southern suburb.

In a statement he made to AFP upon his arrival, Gen Talas reaffirmed Syria's determination to deploy its forces in the southern suburb sooner or later. Gen Talas said: We are here to confirm our intention to impose security in Beirut. The southern suburb, he said, does not pose a military problem, and we will enter it sooner or later.

Chairs Meeting, Departs

NC1805153988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 May 88

[Excerpt] While clashes continued in the southern suburb, a closed meeting was held this afternoon in the Summerland Hotel. The meeting was attended by Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas; Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon; and senior Syrian officers. Talas left Beirut after the meeting. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Take Town Near Jalalabad-Kabul Highway

BK1705104488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 17 May 88

[By Sinan Fisek]

[Text] Islamabad, May 17 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin Monday took the town of Hesarak near the strategic Jalalabad-Kabul Highway after clashing with departing Soviet and Afghan troops, local rebel commanders said Tuesday.

The mujahidin fought Soviet and Afghan troops as they moved into the town halfway between Jalalabad and Kabul, the sources, contacted by telephone from Peshawar, said.

Hesarak, a sub-provincial capital in eastern Nangarhar Province, is about 10 kilometers (six miles) south of the road linking the capital with Jalalabad, the first major Afghan city to be evacuated Sunday by Soviet troops.

Military experts here said the capture of Hesarak should allow the mujahidin in Nangarhar to put pressure on the Jalalabad-Kabul Highway, which they want to cut off as a first step in their siege of Jalalabad.

But despite the publicized withdrawal from Jalalabad Sunday of some 1,000 Soviet troops, Soviet military units, including about 600 military advisers, are still based in the vicinity of the eastern city, mujahidin and Western diplomatic sources here said.

"Surely," said one diplomat who would not be identified, "the Soviet Union did not have only a thousand men in as important a strategic region as Jalalabad."

Diplomats could not detail the Soviet Units remaining in the area, but the mujahidin said they thought the brunt of them were advisers and non-combat units.

The troops that did leave consisted of about 1,000 troops and a total of 239 military vehicles, Western diplomatic sources here said.

They gave the breakdown of the materiel to be evacuated as 52 BTR 70/80 armored personnel carriers (APCS), three BTR 60 amphibious wheeled APC's, 24 BMP-2 mechanised infantry combat vehicles, six ZSU 23/4 self-propelled anti-aircraft guns, seven MTLB artillery support vehicles—some of which were towing guns—12 jeeps, one BRDM Scout vehicle and 135 assorted trucks.

The departure took place in the presence of members of the United Nations Good Offices Mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), a 50-man observer team with contingents from Austria, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Ireland, Nepal, Poland and Sweden.

The diplomatic sources also reported continued heavy fighting around the southern city of Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, which mujahidin forces Monday said they had surrounded.

The rebels Monday also reported the capture of the Mahalajat area south of Qandahar, a lush, 40-kilometer (25-mile) long stretch of orchards and vineyards that gives them a dominant position on the city's airport.

They also reported the weekend takeover of the eastern town of Jaji, and mujahidin commanders in Peshawar unveiled plans for the siege and eventual assault of Jalalabad by about 15,000 guerrillas in Nangarhar Province.

Second Paktia Post Seized

BK1805023688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin in Afghanistan have captured another post in Paktia Province, inflicting heavy casualties on the Kabul regime's forces. The mujahidin also shot down two helicopters. Correspondents say that most of Paktia Province is now under the control of the mujahidin.

Shell Jalalabad, Seize Posts

BK1805154088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1502 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 18 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin have shelled Jalalabad and seized a series of towns and military posts to its south in what experts here say is part of a plan to capture the city.

In addition to Hesarak, which was taken after heavy fighting Monday, the rebels have seized eight towns which form a belt in the foothills of the Safed Koh range on the Afghan-Pakistani border south of Jalalabad and the strategic road linking it to Kabul, rebel sources said.

The reports said the mujahidin struck on Sunday night, shortly after Soviet troops left Jalalabad in a much-publicized withdrawal operation on the first day of their evacuation of Afghanistan.

The rebels shelled the city with rockets and 122-mm cannon, hitting the airport, the local office of the KHAD secret police and the headquarters of the elite 11th Division of the Afghan Army, rebel sources said Wednesday.

The rebels said they killed 19 soldiers and eight KHAD officers in the attack, which lasted until the early hours of Monday.

The belt of land in the foothills of the Safed Koh was taken without bloodshed on May 12, after the towns were evacuated by Afghan troops, but the reports did not reach here until Wednesday, the sources said.

Rebel commanders told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Monday they planned to capture Jalalabad, a key military garrison and a city of 60,000 people about 150 kilometers (90 miles) east of Kabul, after cutting off roads linking it to the capital and, in the east, to Torkhan on the Khyber Pass between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The capture of the belt has placed the mujahidin in a strategically strong position, with their backs to the mountain range and Pakistan, home to three million Afghan refugees, and an open plain before them all the way to the Torkhan-Jalalabad-Kabul highway.

In an apparent bid to foil rebel plans, mujahidin sources said, the Afghan Government has sent reinforcements to Torkhan consisting of 300 to 400 troops, including artillery men just back from training in the Soviet Union, and an unspecified number of BM-21 multi-rocket launchers.

The BM-21 is an improved version of the World War II Katyusha, the "Stalin's organ" which, mounted on a flatbed truck, fires salvos of 40 120-mm, 101-pound (46-kilo) rockets over a range of 15,000 meters (16,400 yards).

In other recent field action, mujahidin sources said they captured what they identified as a key military post in the southern province of Qandahar.

Sar Kelizhay, 12 kilometers (seven miles) from the Pakistani border, has a commanding position over a junction of about half a dozen roads leading into Afghanistan.

The town was taken following a 13-day siege begun after the guerrillas received intelligence that Afghan Army troops stationed there were planning to evacuate, the sources said.

There were casualties on both sides during the siege, broken by intermittent fighting and three abortive Afghan attempts to break out, but figures were not immediately available.

The rebels said they took prisoner 289 soldiers and militiamen, including officers, and seized hundreds of Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles.

The rebels already control a 40-kilometer (25-mile) belt of land adjacent to Qandahar city, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of Sar Kelizhay.

Fresh reports from the fighting in Hesarak said two Afghan helicopters shot down Monday with the loss of seven crewmen were downed by shoulder-held RPG-7 anti-tank rocket launchers as they flew in low to avoid Stinger ground-to-air missiles while evacuating Afghan troops and Soviet advisers.

In Jaji, whose capture Sunday will ease rebel access to Kabul, the hurried evacuation came after mujahidin launched a rocket attack, hitting a large fuel depot, the rebel sources said.

They reported heavy fighting between the towns of Kajran and Lazhah, south of Jaji and north of the Soviet-Afghan garrison of Khowst, under almost constant siege by the rebels since the Soviet occupation eight and a half years ago.

One of the top rebel commanders in the Kabul area, Abdul Haq of the Yunis Khalis faction of the Hezb-e Eslami, Sunday distributed a letter to residents of the capital urging them to desert their government jobs and join the rebels, according to copies of the statement received here Tuesday night.

In nearby Peshawar, rebel leaders denounced what they said was a Soviet-Afghan-Indian "plot" to bring back to power former Afghan ruler Zahir Shah, who has been living in exile in Rome since he was ousted in 1973.

Mujahidin Commander Calls on Soldiers To Desert

BK1805024588 Hong Kong AFP in English 2331 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 18 (AFP)—A top Afghan guerrilla commander has called on government troops to desert to the rebel ranks and urged the people of Kabul to cooperate with the resistance, sources close to the rebels said Tuesday.

Abdul Haq, a top mujahidin commander in the Kabul region, made his call in leaflets distributed in the Afghan capital Sunday and addressed to "dear brothers and sisters, citizens of Kabul," according to the Afghan information and documentation centre, which is linked to the seven-party resistance alliance.

The guerrilla leader, a member of the moderate Hezb-e Eslami Khalis party, said "those who are ready to cooperate with the mujahidin should make contact with the resistance" and urged civil servants to cease working with the government and join the rebels.

Members of the armed forces and the regime's secret police, KHAD, should "desert and join the mujahedeen with or without their weapons," said Abdul Haq, who demanded that they also destroy military posts and arms depots.

The tract added that armed forces officers and KHAD members should stay in their posts if they could play a useful role for the mujahidin by working from within the Kabul regime.

The Afghan Government rules Kabul with an iron grip, but the rebels control most of the countryside, observers said.

The mujahidin is counting on widescale desertions from the Afghan Army to accelerate the fall of the Kabul regime after the withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops. The Soviet pullout began Sunday.

Resistance alliance leaders based in Pakistan have promised an amnesty for those who desert the government and join the rebels.

Resistance Vows To Maintain Pressure on Soviets
BK1305112088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 13 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leaders have pledged to step up their holy war during the withdrawal of Soviet troops which begins Sunday, and to overturn the pro-Soviet Kabul regime within two months.

The Soviet Union is set to begin a phased withdrawal of its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan beginning Sunday.

"We don't care if they (the Soviet troops) leave the 15th or the 16th," said Ahmed Shah, president of the provisional Afghan resistance, or mujahidin, government based here.

"Our plan is to continue the jihad (holy war)," Mr Shah added in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on Friday.

"We have not promised a safe withdrawal for the Soviets," he said. "We are not part of Geneva Accord. We don't believe that they are leaving because of international pressure, they are leaving because of mujahidin pressure."

"We predict that we will topple Najib (Najibullah, the Afghan head of state) in not more than two months after the Russians have left," Mr Shah said.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of a Peshawar-based alliance of seven Afghan rebel groups, said at a press conference in Rawalpindi, near the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, Thursday that the mujahidin would mount "considerable operations" against Soviet forces as they withdraw.

Mr Hikmatyar said he would in no way guarantee the security of United Nations observers of the Soviet pullout.

The Afghan resistance fields some 130,000 guerrillas divided into numerous groups and led by Islamic fundamentalists and moderates who often fight among themselves.

The total strength of the Afghan Armed Forces is put at 45,000 to 50,000 well-equipped soldiers, 35,000 paramilitary troops and 30,000 highly-motivated secret service men.

According to U.S. experts, the Kabul regime could resist from several weeks to a year, depending on the level of coordination among the rebel commanders.

U.S. intelligence officials reportedly asked the mujahidin not to attack the retreating Red Army, warning of a harsh reaction, and advised them to save their strength to fight the regular Afghan Army.

But the leaders of extremist Islamic fundamentalist groups have apparently decided to ignore this advice, diplomatic sources in Islamabad said.

Commanders of the three moderate mujahidin factions appear more reluctant to waste their forces against a retreating enemy, the sources said.

"We believe that after the Soviet withdrawal, the Afghan troops may kill Najib and join us," Mr Shah said, adding that Qandahar in southeastern Afghanistan, the country's second-largest city, will be the first to fall.

Although the president of the provisional mujahidin government insists that the seven Afghan resistance parties are unified, some commanders have been quick to criticize what they call the "politicians" in Peshawar.

"There is not united leadership among various resistance groups, not only around Kabul," said Abdul Haq of the Hezb-e Eslami (Khalis) resistance group operating near the capital.

He does not view the provisional mujahidin government as representative, and said it does not address Afghans' needs.

Mr Haq warned the leaders of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance: "If the politicians do not solve these problems, the people will have two choices, either to accept Najib or abandon the organizations and find another way for themselves."

Hikmatyar Group Rocket Attack on Kabul Aborted
LD1805151388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Afghanistan's vigilant Armed Forces aborted a criminal act by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's extremist group, which tried to fire surface-to-surface rockets at Kabul during the auspicious days of 'Id.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that these criminals positioned a number of long-range surface-to-surface rockets in the Musa Khel subdistrict of Caharasyab district and prepared to fire them at the residential

areas of Kabul. Their treacherous, criminal, and anti-Islamic plot was discovered and aborted in time by Afghanistan's vigilant security forces.

A group of five men belonging to Gulbuddin's extremist group entered Qandahar to carry out terrorist operations during the days of 'Id and was recently crushed by Afghanistan's Armed Forces.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that this group, which was dressed in military uniform and driving a motor vehicle, to carry out its sinister intentions, was crushed in an area between [word indistinct] and Qala-cheh of Daman district.

Samangan Residents See Off Soviet Troops
LD1705205388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Thousands of residents of Aybak city, the capital of Samangan Province, escorted the limited units of the Soviet Union as they passed through this city on their return to their country.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that residents of Aybak city lined both sides of the public highway and presented gifts to the internationalist men and officers of the Soviet Union.

UN's Helminen Arrives To Supervise Accords
LD1405185288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] General Rauli Helminen, the UN secretary general's assistant and head of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan to supervise the implementation of the Geneva accords, arrived this afternoon in Kabul by special plane with a high-ranking delegation.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that General Helminen and his accompanying delegation had gone to Islamabad a few days ago after receiving assurances that the Republic of Afghanistan was ready to implement the Geneva accords during his meeting and talks with some Afghan government officials.

At Kabul Airport the delegation was welcomed by the head of the International Relations Department of the Ministry of Defense and the director of the UN and International Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UN Statement on Afghan Settlement Released
LD1705224888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 16, BAKHTAR—The United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan based in Kabul has released on May 15 the following statement through the United Nations Information Centre in Afghanistan. The text of which is given below.

Statement by General Rauli Helminen, deputy to the representative of the secretary general on the settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan:

Today, General Rauli Helminen reported to Mr. Diego Cordovez, representative of the secretary-general on the settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan, that he has received full assurances from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that each government has taken all measures that are required in order to enable it to be in full compliance with all the provisions of all instruments of the agreements on the settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan, signed in Geneva on 14 April 1988. General Helminen, deputy to the representative, had requested that he be provided such assurances prior to 15 May 1988, when all the instruments of the settlement will enter into force.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan informed Mr. Cordovez and General Helminen on 12 May 1988 that:

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has adopted all necessary measures for full compliance with the provisions of the Geneva agreements, and is prepared for the fulfillment of its obligations.

In connection with the bilateral agreement on the principles of mutual relations, in particular non-interference and non-intervention, the Government of Afghanistan, in pursuance of its peaceful policy and desiring to normalize relations and promote good-neighbourliness and peace and security in the region, is firmly intent to strictly and meticulously respect and abide by these principles in its relations with Pakistan.

Concerning the bilateral agreement on voluntary return of refugees, the Government of Afghanistan, in order to pave the way for the peaceful and unhindered return of the refugees, had taken serious and concrete steps, even prior to the signing of the Geneva agreements, which include specific decrees on the privileges, [words indistinct].

The Afghan Government has also approved the re-establishment of rural development authority and a co-ordinating commission for the affairs related to the return of the refugees. A protocol of co-operation has been signed in Geneva between Afghanistan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the basis of which an UN HQ office will soon be opened in Kabul.

In conformity with Article IV of the agreement on the voluntary return of the refugees, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is fully prepared for the establishment of the mixed commissions, and has already selected members of the Afghan team. We hope that

these commissions would be set up as soon as possible to determine crossing points, establish transit centres and work out all other modalities for the phased return of the refugees.

As far as it concerns the return of the Soviet limited military contingent, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have already reached agreement on necessary arrangements and modalities on the basis of which the return of the Soviet limited military contingent to their peace-loving country shall commence on 15 May and 50 percent of the troops shall leave the territory of Afghanistan within three months. The remaining 50 percent shall leave the Afghan territory within no more than further six months. Thus the return of all Soviet limited military contingent shall be completed within the time-frame specified in Paragraph 5 of the agreement on the inter-relationships of the agenda accords.

The government of Afghanistan wishes to assure the representative of the secretary-general that it has fulfilled and shall continue to fulfil, faithfully and with goodwill, all its obligations in conformity with the provisions of Paragraph 6 of the agreement on the inter-relationships."

The government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan informed General Helminen on 11 May 1988 that:

The government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan affirms that all measures and steps required to ensure full compliance of the provisions of the instruments concluded as component parts of the settlement will be completed by 14 May 1988 in order to fulfil in good faith the obligations on the part of Pakistan deriving from the instruments.

In pursuance of the bilateral agreement on voluntary return of refugees, a special agreement with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will be signed within a week. The return of the refugees will be a principal factor in the implementation of the Geneva agreements. The Government of Pakistan, therefore, expects that the requisite information will be made available to assure the refugees that the necessary conditions have been created for their return in safety and honour.

The Government of Pakistan welcomes the setting up of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) and the appointment of Major-General Rauli Helminen as deputy to the representative of the secretary-general and assures him and the personnel of the mission its full co-operation in the discharge of their responsibilities under the good offices mission. For this purpose, all the necessary facilities will be extended. Arrangements are being made expeditiously to provide requisite logisticaal support to UNGOMAP.

The headquarters units of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) in both Kabul and Islamabad have been established. The deputy to the representative of the secretary-general wishes to express his appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the assistance and cooperation they have provided to UNGOMAP.

On 15 May, UNGOMAP inspection teams will be visiting a number of refugee camps in Pakistan, and will also be visiting different locations in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Interviewed on Geneva Accords, Future
LD1305141788 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 17, 24 Apr 88 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed interview with President Najibullah: "Najibullah: We are Ready for Nationwide Dialogue"]

[Text] "We have been waiting for this day. We never lost hope that political realism would triumph in the end," said Afghan President Najibullah after the UN-sponsored Afghan-Pakistani talks ended in Geneva.

"Afghans are pleased about the signing of the 'Geneva package'," Najibullah said. "Take the rally in Kabul the other day. Thousands participated: a cross-section of Afghan society, including some who once fought against the people's government and others who returned from abroad.

"Foreign interference in our internal affairs after the April 1978 revolution made our Government turn to the USSR for military assistance. We had no other choice. Foreign interference was threatening our independence and revolutionary gains. We view Soviet military assistance as confirmation of the Soviet Union's fraternal solidarity with our revolution. Now that we have international guarantees that foreign interference in our internal affairs will not resume, the conditions are there for the pullout of the Soviet troops who were fulfilling their internationalist duty.

"The Geneva accords and the Soviet-US INF Treaty prove that there are no problems in the world that cannot be solved. The successful completion of the Geneva process is evidence that other regional conflicts, too, can and must be resolved politically."

[Unidentified correspondent] "How do you view Afghanistan's future?"

[Najibullah] "As an independent, non-aligned and neutral state. Such is the will of the people, this is what the people voted for in the National Council (the top legislative body) elections. The elections involved more than one party—in addition to the People's Democratic Party, which renounced its monopoly on political power, there were four other parties.

"The Islam opposition leaders again took a non-constructive approach and refused to participate in the elections. But we are hopeful that political realism will prevail among the opposition, too. This optimism is based on the fact that several influential opposition leaders have returned to Afghanistan from abroad. They have expressed support for the national reconciliation policy as well as their readiness to join us in dialogue. Let me reiterate that we are for dialogue with the opposition, without any preconditions, in the name of national accord.

"The Western media is fond of predicting that the people's government will collapse once the limited Soviet contingent withdraws from Afghanistan.

"Those who oppose the people's government in Afghanistan overlook the fact that 13 out of 30 Afghan provinces have no Soviet troops and that some provinces never had Soviet troops at all. Nevertheless, none of the provinces was ever captured by extremist formations. Our Army and the people's militia have proved their ability to independently maintain peace and tranquillity in these provinces.

"History attests to the fact that Afghans can resolve internal issues independently without outside interference."

Kawiani on Geneva Accords, Resistance, Refugees
PM1705093188 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 13 May 88 p 3

[Interview with Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, by Leonid Mironov, journalist and international affairs specialist, in Kabul under the heading "Success for Common Sense"; date not given; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The agreements signed in Geneva on a political settlement to the situation surrounding Afghanistan are coming into force. Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, talked about some aspects of the present situation in that country in a conversation with journalist and international affairs specialist Leonid Mironov.

[Mironov] Comrade Kawiani, how do you assess the significance of the Geneva accords for Afghanistan?

[Kawiani] I am sure that the situation in Afghanistan has never before been as open to a settlement as it is now. The achievements in Geneva are a success for reality and the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. The Afghan people, who have suffered for 9 years from the undeclared war raging in our land and who passionately desire peace, ardently approve of the Geneva agreements. One would like to hope that all the other countries involved in the signing of these agreements will likewise respect these documents and contribute to ending the bloodshed and implementing the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan.

[Mironov] Pakistan has pledged not to turn its territory into a bridgehead of aggression against Afghanistan. However, it is still giving every possible assistance to anti-Afghan groups. The leaders of the so-called "alliance of seven" are still making bellicose appeals from Pakistani soil. What can you say in this connection?

[Kawiani] Need I remind you that the Pakistani Government has put its signature to a pledge not to allow the presence, the concealment in camps or bases, the organization, training, financing, equipping, or arming of political and other groups on its territory for the purpose of conducting subversive activity against the Afghan Government?

To answer the second part of your question, I must say a few words about the religious and political views of the leaders of the "alliance of seven." In my opinion, they are the source of the external opposition's implacability, dogmatism, and reluctance to understand present realities.

Four parties in the "alliance" follow a religious trend—Islamic fundamentalism. They demand that Islam be cleansed of all later distortions and developments and call for a return to the state system of the Prophet Muhammad's time and the creation of a "pure" Islamic state in Afghanistan. They regard Khomeyni's Iran as a model for such a religious-political system. The fundamentalists are unwilling to share power with any other political forces. What is more, they demand the latter's complete removal from the political arena. The other three parties in the "seven" take a more moderate stand in their claims to power. Aligning themselves with Islamic traditionalists, they favor restoring the prerevolutionary order—even restoring the monarchy. They also give the Islamic religion an important place in the system of state administration, although, unlike the fundamentalists, they do not propose the idea of forming a theocratic regime.

We have repeatedly stated our willingness to talk with the leaders of the opposing side at any time and in any place to discuss all controversial issues, including the composition and political platform of a coalition government. We make only one condition in this respect—that attempts to solve political issues concerning the fate of Afghanistan by military means be stopped.

[Mironov] There is a great deal of discussion, incidentally, regarding the possibility of the return home of former King Zahir Shah—who, as some Afghans believe, could become a symbol of national reconciliation. Has the Afghan leadership considered the question of his return?

[Kawiani] We are not opposed to Zahir Shah's returning to resolve the problems of national reconciliation. His arrival would play a certain useful role. What is more, he could be offered a fairly high post in the coalition administration. However, this matter could only really be decided democratically upon his return.

[Mironov] Hardly has the ink had time to dry, as they say, on the signatures to the Geneva agreements than senior U.S. officials have begun to give assurances of "firm, reliable support" for the mujahidin, or "fighters for the faith," as they are known in the West. What is this—an appeal to continue the bloodshed?

[Kawiani] Statements like these, unfortunately, are hard to see as being compatible with the guarantees that the United States gave in Geneva. In the last 8 years U.S. military aid to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries has come close to $3 billion. Any deviation from the established accords can only harm the process of an Afghan settlement and, of course, cannot fail to reflect on the authority of a state which has made a pledge before the world community.

[Mironov] The new political system in Afghanistan provides for a diversity of parties in the political sphere and structural diversity in the country's economy. How is this reflected in Afghan life today?

[Kawiani] Our party has rejected a monopoly on power. An alliance of left-wing democratic parties has been formed in Afghanistan incorporating, in addition to the PDPA, two other parties—the Organization of Revolutionary Working People of Afghanistan and the Organization of Working People of Afghanistan. This alliance advocates improving the people's living conditions, developing and strengthening the state sector, and encouraging private enterprise in order to develop the economy and eliminate backwardness. Other political parties—the People's Islamic Party of Afghanistan, the Peasant Justice Party, and others—are in the process of being formed.

As far as the national economy is concerned, at the present stage considerably greater attention is going to be paid to the private sector. It will also develop as a result of forming joint enterprises with the Soviet Union. Contracts have already been signed to create 50 of these joint enterprises in various provinces of the republic. Bicycle production will be organized at one of them. Bakeries, textile mills, and fur factories are going to be opened. A total of 60 percent of the capital for these joint enterprises will be put up by private entrepreneurs, and the Soviet Union will provide the credit and equipment for the remaining 40 percent. We hope that this form of cooperation will also attract other countries.

[Mironov] Your country is about to receive millions of refugees. How are you preparing for this?

[Kawiani] This is not an easy problem. The refugees will arrive via special admission points at Towr Kham and Spin Buldak on the Afghan-Pakistani border and at Eslam Kalah on the border with Iran. UN inspection groups will soon begin work in these places. The refugees will immediately receive material, medical, and other necessary aid. Their land will be returned to them. The state will cover all the costs. The Soviet Union has come to our aid again, covering part of the cost of taking back the refugees.

[Mironov] What would you like to say, Comrade Kawiani, to the Soviet servicemen who will begin to leave your country on 15 May this year?

[Kawiani] The popular expression "We met as friends and part as brothers" is particularly significant at this time.

The Afghan people have been saved more than once by their Soviet brothers at the most difficult, complex, and dangerous moments in their history. At the critical time when our enemies no longer doubted that the cause of the April Revolution was doomed, the Soviet people shared their bread and salt with us and gave us all the help we needed. At the moment when we were under deadly threat, they shared their most sacred possession with us—their good strength, their sons. They came to us, the children of the Land of the Soviets, in the name of peace and freedom, and they saved us. They showed us an example of real internationalism and revolutionary patriotism in combat. Their people saved our people!

Bidding farewell to the Soviet servicemen, we will grieve the bitterness of our loss—the loss of our brothers who gave their lives for our people. All those who died heroes in our mountains, ravines, and valleys will be remembered for eternity.

I would like to say to the servicemen leaving our country that their truly internationalist feat of arms will never be forgotten by our people.

Interior Minister Meets With Provincial Elders

LD1505093088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] In a meeting at Kabul's Police Headquarters today, the elders of Kabul Province and community leaders of the city of Kabul expressed their readiness to ensure security in various parts of Kabul Province.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that after the recitation of verses from the holy Koran, Lieutenant General Sayyid Muhammad Gulabzoy, the minister of the interior, made a speech about the Geneva agreements and about peace in the country and called for the elders of Kabul Province to cooperate with the security forces to neutralize the devilish plots of the extremist groups.

A number of the elders, speaking on behalf of the others at the meeting, promised that they will not allow extremist groups to use the remote villages of Kabul Province for terrorist and subversive acts. They also promised to fulfill their patriotic duty by cooperating with the security forces to prevent terrorist and subversive actions of the extremist groups.

The meeting ended with prayers for peace and an end to the fratricide in the country.

Najibullah Attends Koran Recitation 13 May

LD1305225988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] The recitation of the holy Koran, which began on 8 May during prayers led by prayer leader Qari Barakatullah Salim in the communal mosque of the Presidential Palace, ended on 13 May.

The Office for Islamic Affairs of the Afghan Presidency reports that the end of the recitation was attended by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan; a number of the members of the Politburo and Central Committee of the PDPA; the leadership of the National Front; the leaders of political parties and social organizations; members of the Supreme Court, the Revolutionary Council, and Council of Ministers; advisers and officials of the Presidency; members of the Islamic Consultation Council of the Presidency; the chairman and several members of the High Council for Ulema and Religous Leaders; heads of colleges of Kabul University, the Islamic Studies and Research Center, and the religious seminary; Ajmal Katak [not further identified], a number of ulema and theologians, and a number of high-ranking civilian and military officials.

Government Successes Against Opposition Reported

'Extremists' Crushed in Herat

LD1505100488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] An armed extremist warmongering group which tried to disrupt the peaceful life of the peaceloving people of Adraskan in Herat Province has been crushed by the country's armed forces.

The report says that a number of terrorists, including their leaders Muhammad Anwar and 'Abdul Qayum, were crushed during the operation which was carried out at the request of the peaceloving people of the district. Eleven assorted weapons were also seized.

'Terrorists' Crushed in Kapisa

LD1305173188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Armed terrorists of the Gulbuddin extremist group, who entered the capital of Kapisa Province to carry out terrorist and subversive activities, were crushed by the Armed Forces. The military office of BAKHTAR reported that [name indistinct], the ringleader of the armed group, was included among those crushed. A large amount of weapons and ammunition were seized by security forces from these criminals.

'Large' Weapons Cache Seized

LD1305184488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] The country's armed forces, by inflicting crushing blows on the armed extremists groups, have seized a large weapons and ammunition cache to be used to disturb the peaceful life of the people, causing a climate of terror and fear among our compatriots.

During two combat operations, carried out in the surroundings of Paktia Province in the regions of (Kander Kheyl), 'Ali Kheyl, Wali, Mowshkheyl and Kowzay, a number of elements belonging to the extremists groups were crushed. Eight reactive systems [as heard], five mortars, three DsHK's and tens of light weapons were seized by the country's security forces.

The report adds that last week the country's border forces discovered a vehicle carrying arms and ammunition belonging to the extremists which [word indistinct] entering the territory of Afghanistan in Shindand District, and appropriated the arms and ammunition.

A group of criminal extremists which had entered the territory of Afghanistan to carry our distructive activities was crushed last week by the country's armed forces in Paktia Province. Two vehicles carrying their arms and ammunition were taken over by the security forces.

The armed forces in Sorowbi District, Kabul Province, discovered a large cache of arms and ammunition belonging to extremist elements. Arms and ammunition, including 39 rocket launchers, 85 mortars, 5 recoilless guns, 4 antipersonnel mines, a reactive system [as heard], and 27 boxes of DShK shells were seized.

A report by the military section of BAKHTAR adds that during last week, as a result of the awareness of the security forces and all-round cooperation by the people, a number of devilish plans by the enemy were uncovered. The extremists had prepared nine surface-to-surface missiles in the regions of Deshtak and (Aynak Copper) to be fired on the residential areas of Kabul city. This treacherous action was foiled by the armed forces, who seized the weapons. Also, 15 surface-to-surface missiles, aimed at residential areas of Nangarhar Province, were discovered in Rodad region and taken over by the security forces.

Last week, an armed terrorist group of (?60) men was crushed in Faryab Province, and their weapons taken by the country's armed forces.

The brave soldiers, NCO'S, and officers of the country's armed forces have vowed to eliminate the enemies of the prosperity and tranquillity of the Afghan people. With a high fighting morale, they will defend with full self-sacrifice the national reconciliation policy process and the peaceful life of our compatriots.

Court Sentences Treason Suspect to Death

LD1505224188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 May 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The dossier of 'Abdul Bashir, son of 'Abdul Ghafur of 'Ali Reza Khan Street, first district of Kabul city, who was accused of treason as a result of the explosion at the Education Ministry building, was taken under consideration by the Revolutionary Court after it completed its investigation.

During the investigation, it became known that Abdul Bashir was recruited by extremist bands and was sent to Pakistan in 1362 [Afghan year beginning 21 March 1983]. He was introduced to Hashim, a leader of the band, and returned to the country during the last days of Jadi 1366 [21 December-19 January] for subversive operations and terrorist acts. In accordance with his instructions, he was introduced to one Najib in Kabul. Then, he took some explosives to the third floor of the Education Ministry and detonated them on 17 Hout 1366 [7 March 1988S].

After hearing the prosecutor's charges, the confession of the accused—both in a preliminary plea and before the court—the testimony of witnesses, the evidence proving the commitment of a felony, in accordance with Articles 321 and 271 and the last paragraph of Article 273 of the Criminal Procedure Law, the revolutionary court—in the presence of the defendent and prosecutor — unanimously passed judgment. Abdul Bashir was sentenced to the harsh punishment of death for treason against the country, joining the enemy, and causing an explosion at the Education Ministry. The sentence takes into account the tenets of Islam and the protection of the lives and property of the faithful people of Afghanistan, in accordance with Article 1, paragraph one of the Internal and External Security Law of the Republic of Afghanistan. The judgment of the court is enforceable after the approval of the president of Afghanistan in accordance with Article 115 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Seasonal Floods Cause Damage in Herat Province

LD1405174488 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Herat, 14 May (BAKHTAR)—Recent floods in the environs of Herat Province killed 2 people, thousands of livestock, and destroyed 500 houses in 31 villages. A large area of agricultural land along with irrigation walls were destroyed.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported from Herat that as a result of seasonal floods, land for the cultivation of sugar beets, cotton, wheat, and melons, and a number of orchards were destroyed in Herat Province. Tents, a large quantity of sugar, footwear, clothing, foodstuff, and other goods were distributed to the flood victims by government officials, who were instructed to take immediate action to restore agricultural lands, irrigation walls, and houses.

Correction to Army Chief of Staff on War

This correction pertains to the item headlined "Army Chief of Staff Discusses War Preparations" published in the 17 May Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 44:

First paragraph, first sentence should read ...General Shahnawa Tani, chief of staff of the Afghan Armed Forces, answered... (correcting title)

Page 45, third paragragh should read ...The armed forces' large units and contingents... (changing army to armed forces)

India

Army's 'Assault' on Golden Temple Continues

BBC Updates Situation

BK1705125988 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 17 May 88

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] For our first dispatch we go straight to Amritsar in the Indian state of Punjab where Mark Tully is covering the assault by the Indian Army on the Sikh extremists besieged within the Golden Temple complex.

[Begin Tully recording] In a temperature of 44 degrees centigrade, Indian commandos have blasted their way into the first building which Sikh militants are still holding in the Golden Temple complex. They are now regrouping and intend to launch an attack on the basement of the building later today. They are believed to be between 10 and 15 militants there. The basement is also believed to be heavily fortified and has very thick walls.

The head of the Punjab police force, who is commanding the operation, told me he expected to control the basement by this evening. The commandos have not so far killed or captured any extremists in this attack, but some arms and ammunition have been recovered, also photographs of militants the police maintain have been involved in terrorist attacks.

The Punjab police chief said he would decide about attacking the other positions, in which the militants are still holding out, after seeing the results of the assault on the first building. The militants are in three other positions; one of them is the Golden temple itself.

The security forces do not intend to attack it because it is the most sacred of the Sikh shrines. Up to now the security forces had deliberately avoided an all-out attack on any building in the complex. They had hoped that by alternating between heavy shelling and appeals to surrender they would break the morale of the militants.

They had a major success on Sunday when 146 people—many of them militants—did surrender. Then this morning, when the police announced a cease-fire so that more militants could surrender, those in the Golden Temple used it to draw water and for attempts to bring in food. It was this which made the security forces decide to change their tactics. [end recording]

Forces Occupy Buildings

BK1705162888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] In Amritsar, the security forces have taken over the two minarets and the old langhar [dining] building in the Golden Temple complex. Talking to newsmen this evening the director general of Punjab Police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, said that these are outside the main parikrama [walkway] of the temple. He said some arms and ammunition including 9 rifles, 1 machinegun, 3 highly explosive grenades, and 1,000 cartridges of various sizes were recovered.

He said the operation by the security forces was carried out following failure of the terrorists to respond to a 30 minute cease-fire offer early this morning. Mr Gill said the operation is under way to clear the basement of the langhar building. As to whether any further chance is to be given to the terrorists to surrender, he said the administration will continue the policy of persuasion. He made it clear that the security forces will not enter the parikrama of the Golden Temple.

Mr Gill said passages were made by the security forces for entering the basement of the old langhar building. He said there was sporadic firing by the militants from prasad point [place where offerings made to Sikh saints are distributed to devotees] and the clock tower side during the day. He said hardly any damage has been done to the historic building. A decomposed body was also extricated by the Red Cross from near the gate adjacent to the langhar building.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorist violence claimed 11 lives today. In Ludhiana two employees of a religious place were shot dead in Samrala town early this morning. In Amritsar District, three members of a family, including two women, were killed. Three persons who were injured in Patiala and Jullundhur Districts died in hospitals. Three others were shot dead by terrorists in a village near Batala this afternoon.

The Punjab governor, Mr Sidartha Shanker Ray, has said the terrorists in the state are neither true Sikhs nor do they have any respect for the Sikh traditions. Presiding over a meeting of the state level monitoring committee of peace and development council in Chandigarh today, he said the terrorists, by lodging themselves along with their arms and ammunition in Harminder Saheb [Golden Temple], have desecrated the holiest of holy places. He said the terrorists have shown the biggest disrespect to the Golden Temple by cremating their dead colleagues within its precincts.

Mr Ray described the recent shootout by terrorists in some parts of the state as a backlash of the security forces efforts to cleanse the Golden temple complex. He said every possible effort is being made to check these incidents.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Congress-I, BJP, CPI, and CPI-M. The members by and large appreciated the manner in which the security forces are acting to flush out the terrorists from the Golden Temple complex. The members urged the government to take adequate measures to save the lives of innocent people from the backlash of the anti-terrorist operations.

'Sporadic' Firing Continues

BK1805032588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] At least 29 laborers were shot dead and an unspecified number injured when terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at a labor camp near village Kharara in the Ropar District of Punjab last night. The laborers, engaged in the construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal, were sleeping in the camp when the terrorists struck.

Seven more persons have been killed and 15 injured by terrorists in Amritsar and Jullundur Districts since last evening. Four laborers were killed and four injured when terrorists opened fire at a village under the Ajnala police station area in Amritsar District last night. In another incident in the same district at Gharinda, terrorists stopped a bus and shot dead three passengers and seriously injured two after disembarking them.

In Jullundur District, seven persons were injured when terrorists opened fire at Kartarpur railway station last night. The passengers had just got down from the "Flying Mail." One terrorist was killed in Gharinda area of Amritsar District yesterday in an encounter with the security forces. One terrorist was captured.

At the Golden Temple complex, sporadic firing between terrorists entrenched there and the security forces outside continued last night. As already reported, the security forces have taken control of the two minarets of the old langar [dining] building. These are outside the main parikrama [walkway] of the temple. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were also recovered.

Gurkha Group Explodes Bombs; CPI-M Member Dead

BK1705161688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] The three hill subdivisions of Darjeeling have been rocked by a series of bomb explosions since last night. The district magistrate, Mr D.P. Patra, said GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Force] activists exploded two bombs in Lalkuti and Singmari areas under Sadar Subdivision this morning. Three bombs were hurled in Darjeeling town last night.

The body of a CPI-M supporter kidnapped from his residence on Sunday was recovered from Kalimpong town yesterday. Mr Patra said this is the third incident of a CPI-M supporter being killed by GNLF activists in the last 1 week.

5 Killed, 70 Injured in Aurangabad Group Clashes

BK1705161888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] In Maharashtra, curfew has been clamped in Aurangabad following the death of five persons in group clashes this afternoon. The police have taken up position throughout the town. More than 70 people have been injured.

The chief minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, expressed deep shock and sorrow over the deaths. In a statement issued in Bombay today, he appealed to all sections of society and particularly to the citizens of Aurangabad to maintain peace and cooperate with the administration to maintain law and order. He said that necessary instructions have been given to the authorities to take firm measures to bring the situation under control.

The chief minister is visiting Aurangabad tomorrow to address a peace committee meeting.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, spoke to Mr Chavan and requested him to take all measures immediately to ensure that law and order in Aurangabad and other parts in the state is maintained.

Sri Lankans Barred From Tamil Nadu Schools

BK1605115088 Colombo SUN in English 9 May 88 p 1

[Text] Sri Lanka Tamil students have been debarred from entering educational institutions in Tamil Nadu.

The Government of India has decreed that all Sri Lanka Tamil students, now studying in various schools and colleges in Tamil Nadu, should be allowed to continue their education till completion of their present courses. It has said that no new admissions should be made.

The Indian Central Government's decision has been conveyed to the Government of Tamil Nadu by the Department of Internal Security in the Ministry of Home Affairs, in New Delhi.

Here are the Indian Government's new instructions to Tamil Nadu:

All Sri Lankan Tamil students, who are now studying in classes XI and XII in schools in India should be allowed to remain in India and continue their education until completion of XII standard.

Such of the Sri Lankan Tamil students who are now studying in classes other than XI and XII in schools in India should be allowed to remain in India and continue their education until the completion of the current academic year.

Thereafter, such students should be sent back to Sri Lanka.

All the Sri Lankan Tamil students, who are now studying in India in various universities/colleges/polytechnics (following courses such as MB BS [Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery], BA BE [Bachelor of Engineering] B. Comm [Bachelor of Commercial Arts] and technical course) should be allowed to remain in India and continue their education until the completion of their respective courses. However, no new entrants should now be given admission in any of the colleges/polytechnic/university.

Students visas for these students may be granted until the end of the period of their respective studies as mentioned above.

However, the extension of the student visas would be subject to the condition that the parents of such children would not insist on staying back in India on the pretext of completion of the respective courses of their wards.

Defense Minister To Visit Sri Lanka 'Soon'

BK1405032888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, will visit Colombo soon at the invitation of the Sri Lanka land minister, Mr Gamini Dissanayake, during his recent visit to India.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the actual dates will be finalized later. In Sri Lanka, Mr Pant will hold discussions on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

Briefs

Heroin Seized at Border

The Border Security Force has seized 60 kg of heroin worth about 60 crore rupees in the international market. This followed an armed encounter with four intruders from across the Pakistani border at the Gatti Gurkha border outpost in Ferozepore District on Monday night. A spokesman said the intruders managed to flee back to Pakistan after abandoning the heroin. [Text] [*BK1805034088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 May 88*]

Iran

'Bayt ol-Moqaddas-6' Launched in Iraq

LD1805065788 Tehran IRNA in English 0649 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—"Bayt ol-Moqaddas-6" operations was launched near Asas Heights, northeastern Iraq and east of Dukan city and Dukan Dam, Tuesday night with the code name "Ya Amir al-Mo'menin" (commander of the faithful, reverential title of the first imam of Muslims).

Several strategic heights among them Asas Heights and its peaks Number 2546, 2301, 2221, Shaykh Mohammad Heights and its peaks Number 2649, 2457, 2466, 2437, 2069, and 2099, and highly strategic heights of 2266 and 2100 have reportedly been liberated.

The operations launched near Mawat were in retaliation for recent Iraqi mischiefs in the Persian Gulf and also for Iraqi attacks on Iranian border villages. The operations has landed Iran's Muslim combatants nearer to the city of Dukan and a dam with the same name.

Heavy casualties and damage was inflicted on the enemy military. Brigade 448 of Iraq's Infantry Division 46 was destroyed by 70 percent, Brigade 606 of the Infantry Division 46 by 30 percent and Brigade 76 of Infantry Brigade 4 by 6 percent.

Iraqi casualty figure is about 1,300 which includes about 320 of its ranking officers.

750 Iraqis Killed

LD1805085788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0816 GMT 18 May 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Patient and steadfast Iranian nation! With capture of the Asas strategic heights the fighters of Islam have killed more than 750 enemy troops and wounded hundreds more. The Joint Staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps reports that during the heroic battle of the army of monotheism on these heights more than 135 Ba'thist troops have been taken prisoner and are being taken behind the lines.

Latest reports from the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-6" operational region say the fire rising from destroyed enemy equipment and armored vehicles is blanketing the region's highlands. Anti-tank units of the Ground Forces of the IRGC, hunting the enemy's combat resources, have created the fire of hell for the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist forces.

The heroic battle of the army of Islam to achieve the predetermined objectives in this region is continuing with utmost strength.

Troops Advance on Asas Heights

LD1805090488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0840 GMT 18 May 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O zealous and heroic ummah of Iran! Please pay attention to a report that we have just received. The feeble enemy, trying to reinforce his crushed troops in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-6" operational theater, has sent new units to the zone. However, in the course of the courageous battle of Islam's fighters against the Ba'thist forces, these new units were smashed and their troops were forced to flee the operational theater.

According to a report of the Joint Staff of the IRGC, the mighty warriors of Islam are now crossing the liberated Asas Heights and are bravely attacking new enemy positions in the Shaykh Muhammad Heights, east of the city and the Dukan Dam. According to this report, the feeble enemy, who was surprised by the heroic attack of Islam's forces, began retreating from his defensive positions on the Shaykh Muhammad Heights and was forced to abandon his positions. The fighters of Islam, by routing the enemy forces, are continuing their lightning advance in order to reach their predetermined objectives.

May you be successful and may your battle be victorious!

Iraq's 76th Brigade Destroyed

LD1805095688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0912 GMT 18 May 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Militant and valiant Iranian nation, please pay attention! The epic-makers and proud men of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, continuing the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-6" operations, have smashed the last-ditch enemy resistance on Shaykh Muhammad Heights and completely cleared six strategic summits. The victorious fighters of the army of Islam, in their lightning assault on those heights smashed the 76th

Brigade of the duped Iraqi Army's 4th Infantry Division and captured Shaykh Muhammad Heights Nos 2649, 2457, 2466, 2437, 2069, and 2099.

During these liberation operations hundreds more of the enemy forces, particularly the forces of the 76th Brigade, were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. A large quantity of enemy equipment has also been captured by the army of Islam.

With the destruction of the 76th Brigade of the Iraqi Army's 4th Infantry Division at Shaykh Muhammad Heights, more than 1,200 Iraqi troops have been killed or wounded and more than 280 Saddamist forces have been taken prisoner and taken behind the lines.

The barricaders of the army of monotheism, may your victory over the abject enemy be auspicious!

Tehran Notes Attack on Panamanian Tanker
LD1805105988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] According to a REUTER report, shipping sources in the Persian Gulf announced that three gunboats attacked a Panama-flagged tanker, named (?"Ice Canoe") in the southern parts of the Persian Gulf at 0930 this morning and set it on fire.

Further on Khamene'i's 'Id al-Fitr Address
LD1705173888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0953 GMT 17 May 88

[Address by President 'Ali Khamene'i on 17 May marking 'Id al-Fitr; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I congratulate you all, dear brothers and sisters, the entire Iranian nation, our esteemed leader, our great leader, and our guide in religion and life, and Muslims around the world on 'Id al-Fitr. [passage omitted]

Today, our nation, our country, our revolution, and the hearts of all the world's Muslims need our iron faith, virtue, and piety. We should remain virtuous and pious, for this will enable us to carry the great burden that has been entrusted to us. Our nation, blessed by the revolution, is aware of the facts. However, there are many slippery roads ahead, and you should take care to identify them.

I advise you and the Iranian nation to place great importance on those sins committed by word of mouth, the sins you commit by saying the wrong thing. I mentioned this at a similar glorious celebration and I would like to repeat it this year as well. Under the current circumstances in our society, if you gossip and malign others, malign those we do not like, you commit sins that, now as never before, have multiple negative effects. We should try to preserve and appreciate the love, kindness, closeness, trust, and confidence that Islam, faith, and the great revolutionary movement have created in our nation. That is an example of how you should safeguard your faith, and I attach great significance to it in contemporary society. Our unity is most valuable and necessary today.

The world of blasphemy and arrogance is threatened by our revolution, and has closed ranks before it. This is still true, although 9 years have passed since the revolution. The hatred and dislike which arrogance harbors for our revolution intensifies and strengthens each day. Only a uniform and united nation can withstand this satanic hatred. The enemy is trying to disrupt the coordination and unity that have been achieved as a result of the revolution and the great character of the revolution's leader. They will attain their objective only through us, our tongues, our negligence, inattention, and insensitivity. If we pay more attention, the enemy's plots will be foiled. [passage omitted]

I thank our dear brave nation, which participated in two rounds of Majlis elections and has demonstrated its strong and steadfast presence in every stage of the revolution. [passage omitted]

The Majlis is the most sensitive center of this republic. As the fulcrum of decisionmaking in the country, it should be brimming with sincerity, faith, revolutionary spirit, fraternity, hard work, and sensitivity toward the country's affairs. [passage omitted]

During the elections, some harsh words were spoken by certain candidates and their followers. Now that, thank God, the elections have been successfully completed, these arguments should end. Those who have been elected, as well as their followers, must try to bind the wounds anyone has suffered. They must not make their pain worse. They must tell their followers to treat others, the opposition—who may have been on the opposite side in the election but, in reality and in the revolution, we are all on the same side—with the utmost kindness and sincerity. Throughout the country, everyone must honor the dignity of the people's representatives. They must value the Majlis and hold it dear. The Majlis, too, must cherish the people's trust and confidence.

Another important issue occurring at this point in the Muslim world, which I cannot fail to mention at these extremely glorious ceremonies and which has upset all the faithful, are the incidents between brothers in Lebanon. This conflict between our brothers in Lebanon serves foreign interests. My message to the brothers in Beirut and in (Zahiyehh) in the south, who have drawn up their ranks against each other and are fighting an armed and merciless war, is that Israel alone stands to gain from this episode. Even the winner of these bloody

conflicts stands to lose. When brothers living in the same house begin to fight, no one wins. The enemy without will win. Friends will suffer broken hearts and other losses.

We believe that foreign hands are the major factor responsible for these bloody incidents among our brothers in Lebanon, those honest Muslims who have made the greatest and most notable sacrifices against the occupying Zionist government. All of them, but especially their leaders and those in charge, should try to bring these brothers closer together. We hope that this insight, this determination and sensitivity, will come to them all.

We are deeply hurt and saddened, and are anxious about what is happening in Lebanon. We will not feel at ease until all these incidents end, until the brothers join ranks and, united, try to deal the heaviest blows to the occupying Zionist regime. They should do so uniformly, in unison, and with clenched fists. [Shouts of "God is great," other slogans]

A more important and basic issue I would like to raise at this huge gathering is the wishful thinking of global arrogance, and of the American regime in particular, about pressuring the Islamic Republic. What credulously wishful thinking! They thought this newly created republic would be driven to its knees without pressure if it were deprived of its oil flow. Therefore, they instructed their trained servant, Saddam Husayn, to attack our oil-rich regions.

They had sweet dreams of creating a wealthy, oil-rich state, a new shaykhdom, a region under U.S. influence, with the weapons they placed at Saddam's disposal and the support they offered him. However, their dream did not come true. The most basic objective of the Ba'thist 'Aflaqi regime's military attack on our country was to occupy one of Iran's most strategic and important regions, and to deprive us of that area. They made some very shallow calculations and thought it could be done.

The power and resistance of the Iranian nation and the ardor of the revolution showed that their calculations has been naive and their wishful thinking had proved to be wrong. They dug themselves in so deeply that they could not get out. They saw that their trained henchmen were going to lose everything. The pressure of Islam's warriors had the Ba'thist regime so tightly by the throat, and had weakened it to such a degree that it was on the verge of collapse. Global arrogance was panic-stricken.

More than 7 years after the imposed war began, the American regime and its arrogant allies have appeared in the Persian Gulf trying to resolve the problem of the Persian Gulf themselves. However, the most important event in the world since last year—when I spoke to you here on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr—which has attracted worldwide attention is the American defeat in its military adventure. The U.S. regime has reached the point now where it openly assists the Iraqi regime. It continues to indulge in wishful thinking, having sweet dreams of blocking the Islamic Republic's oil route by arming the Iraqi regime, giving it facilities and fighter planes, offering assistance, placing AWACS at its disposal, along with telecommunications and other resources.

I wish to repeat two or three points that we have frequently stated before. The first point is this: Today we once again declare decisively that if the Islamic Republic is unable to export oil through the Persian Gulf, there will be no way for any other country to export oil through the Persian Gulf. [shouts of approval] The second point is this: The United States must realize it cannot influence the Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic by its superpower majesty. Such intimidating gestures are not appropriate here. This nation, the organizers of a revolution, are not frightened by such threats. This selfless nation, which has passed the test during the last 9 years, knew from the moment we chose this path who we would be facing.

Everyone in this country knew that Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was backed by the U.S. regime. Nevertheless, we fought against him and toppled him. We knew we were fighting against the United States. Can anyone in this country with an open mind deny the plain fact that, as United States is backing Saddam Husayn, our fighters in the war against Iraq are in fact fighting the United States? However, they fought and routed the enemy. Our nation is not afraid of a war with the United States. I say that on the day the Americans became involved in a war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the countdown for the decline in American power, wealth, and empire started. If the Americans clash with this nation, our teeth and nails will tear at the body of U.S. arrogance; our nation will not give up so easily. This nation would press hard, and no doubt the United States would, under such conditions, incur many losses in this clash, irreperable losses.

The third and last point is this: American support for the Iraqi regime is quite pointless. We have repeatedly voiced our final word: punishment of the aggressor. Our leader and the nation continuously reiterate that they will continue inflicting blows on the Iraqi regime until the Ba'thist criminals are fully punished. [shouts of approval]

Dear brothers and sisters, you great Iranian compatriots: Up to now you have achieved rare honor and privilege in this area. Try to safeguard it with all your might; remain present on the scene; do not leave the war fronts; be ready to be called up by officials in charge of the war and by commanders of the IRGC. The volunteer forces should be ready to enter the war arena as soon as they are called on to do so. In conclusion, I would like to again congratulate everyone on this occasion. I would also like to congratulate the brother political representatives from Muslim countries who are present in united ranks. I Lope

that these coming days and nights will be used to get closer to God and to approach revolutionary objectives and dreams. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Sends Message to Persian Gulf Seminar
LD1805122388 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 18, IRNA—A seminar on Persian Gulf sponsored by the Center for International Studies of the Foreign Ministry started here Wednesday.

In a message read to the seminar the president referred to strategic importance of the Persian Gulf in world's political and economic calculations.

He said that due to its location the Persian Gulf attracted the attention of imperialist powers. Later on the importance was heightened by discovery of oil [in] the region.

Khamene'i said unfortunately at present when international regulations are expected to be observed more seriously, they are being ignored.

"Our sovereignty in the Persian Gulf waters is being violated and unfortunately some of our neighbours knowingly or unknowingly are playing into the hands of the overseas oppressors," said his message.

The Persian Gulf has had a major place in history, the message said, adding that distinguished Islamic historians in their works have referred to the waterway as Persian Gulf or "Al-Khalij al-Farsi" or "Bahr-e Fars" all of which designations in Arab mean "Persian" Gulf.

Presently the Persian Gulf is being violated by enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Iranian Muslim combatants are defending every inch of Iranian lands and waters, said the message.

In order to make optimum use of this region foreign intervention must be curtailed in the region, he stressed.

In another part of the message he said "The security of the region can be maintained by cooperation among nations of the region in a spirit of brotherhood and as we have repeatedly stated we will warmly welcome the hands of friendship from our neighbours."

The president who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council said certain differences in outlooks exist between the Iranian Government and some of Iran's neighbors, and without singling out any specific country called on the governments in those countries to align their outlooks and diplomacy with Iran.

He expressed hope that Muslim states "across the Persian Gulf" will shortly do without [as received] their uneasiness about the Islamic Republic which attitude, he said, has been engendered in them by "the imperialists and pagans." He warned Iran's neighbors against thinking of a challenge to Iran and advised them against succumbing to the pressures of "powermongers."

Khamene'i pointed out that Iran has no territorial ambitions on other's lands and especially on Islamic lands, and is concerned about nothing but the security of Islamic lands.

He said in his message that the security of the Persian Gulf is the business solely of the littoral states of the Persian Gulf.

Another speaker at the opening session was Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who also touched on the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf and stressed the need for protecting the security of the waterway.

Velayati told the seminar that the Islamic Revolution raised Iran to the number one power of the region and that as a result of the revolution a pro-U.S. Iran transformed itself into an independent power which believes "the Persian Gulf belongs to none but the countries of this particular region."

London Paper Cited on UK's 'Hostile Attitude'
LD1805084588 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] London, May 18, IRNA—Britain's current attitude over towards [as received] the issue of hostages in Lebanon was sounding rather hollow and needed changing, a leading daily here has recommended.

The London INDEPENDENT felt that the British Government's so-called "no-deals policies" sounded fine in principle but that it was producing "no results."

Lecturer at the American University in Beirut Brian Keenan and journalist John McCarthy have been missing and unheard of in Lebanon for over two years, and the Church of England envoy Terry Waite disappeared in January 1987 and has since been unheard of.

In its editorial Tuesday, the paper believed that Iran had as much influence in Beirut as anyone and that London's practically non-existent relations with Tehran should be "changed."

It further thought that Britain's having no formal ties with Syria was not helpful and that this situation should also be "remedied."

Earlier this month, France was seen obtaining the release of their three remaining hostages in Beirut through Iran's intervention.

The archbishop of Canterbury has publicly said that he would like the help of the Islamic Republic in trying to find details about his missing envoy but as yet there have been no indications from the U.K. Government of dropping its hostile attitude.

ETELLA'AT Assails Saudi Diplomatic Break

LD1705142188 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Apr 88 p 16

[Editorial: "The Break in Relations With Iran and Fewer Worries for the United States"]

[Text] The Hijaz regime's breaking of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is still the topic of discussion in many of the world's press and diplomatic circles. The tenor of most of these discussions implies that the regime ruling the Arabian Peninsula acted according to U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf when it broke off relations.

Many of the region's analysts believed that the Hijaz regime has shown the utmost restraint even under most difficult conditions and tried not to burn all its bridges with the Islamic Republic of Iran. They believe that this time the Saudis have made a hasty decision under U.S. pressure and that this decision could result in adverse affects.

Western diplomats in Riyadh say that this action by the Hijaz regime was an obvious move to lessen the worries of the U.S. Congress over the sale of Chinese missiles to Saudi Arabia. Following the sale of these missiles, Israel told the United States that if it could not give adequate guarantees that they would not be used against Israel, it would attack the missile sites.

Zionist circles in Congress insisted that any U.S. sale of weapons to the Hijaz regime be preceded by guarantees that those weapons would not be used against Israel. This is why the U.S. Administration suggested that the Hijaz regime carry out the following actions:

1. Sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty;

2. Give guarantees to the U.S. Administration that the weapons would not be used against Israel; and

3. Break ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The aim was to have the Hijaz regime show that its greatest worry concerned the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to Western circles, by announcing a break in their relations with Iran, the Saudis wanted it clearly understood that the missiles bought from China were to used in the event of any aggression by Iran and that they did not pose a threat to Israel.

Following this action by the Hijaz regime, the American Government announced the sale of $825 milions' worth of weapons to that country. This occurred at a time when Congress had announced its opposition to this action prior to the Saudi move. The government of Israel also announced it had no intention of attacking the missile sites.

In addition to the above point, the breaking of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran was aimed at strengthening the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf. Following the recent Persian Gulf clash between the Americans and Iran, the White House planned to increase its forces in Gulf waters. For this purpose, it extended its support for neutral shipping, which aroused some opposition in Congress. Because the possibility of hostilities between Iran and Saudi Arabia would have brought the Congress around to agreeing with increased involvement in the Pesian Gulf, the Saudi Government's actions increased Reagan's options for defending his plans.

The United States wants to exaggerate the Iranian danger to the Persian Gulf countries to pave the way for its own militarist policies in the region. The Hijaz government showed itself to the Muslim masses more clearly than ever, proving itself willing to go to any lengths to realize U.S. policies and aims in the region.

The nature of the Hijaz rulers was quite clear to the Muslims of the world. This is why, despite all the money the Saudis spend in Islamic countries, the demonstrations held by Iranians at the hajj each year have proved more and more popular with pilgrims from other countries.

This is not the first time that the Hijaz regime has acted in the Americans' interest, nor is it the first time that it has given guarantees to Israel. This is the same regime which 7 years ago brought out the "Fahd" plan which recognized, for the first time since the disgraceful Camp David accords, Israel's right to exist.

It is possible that the recent cat-and-mouse games are only meant to stabilize U.S. military policies in the Persian Gulf. With the break in ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Reagan's hands are free to defend U.S. interests on the pretext of keeping the regional countries' security intact.

However, the Hijaz regime and its allies should know that Mr Reagan end up like his predecessor Carter, whereas those countries will have to live long years alongside the Islamic Republic of Iran, the most powerful country in the region. With this in mind, such hasty actions will put them on a collision course. They will eventually have to mend their political fences, following a good deal of embarrassment.

Commentary on Expectations From New Majlis

NC1805110888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 May 88

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit research group]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The extensive and unprecedented participation of the Islamic ummah in the elections for the third session of

the Majlis—the first round being held on 8 April and the second and last on Jerusalem Day—under the special war conditions prevailing in the country revealed to the officials of the Islamic Republic a singular aspect of the people's cooperation.

On the eve of the elections, the important and historic message from the lofty leader of the revolution and his emphasis of the fact that the elections are destiny-making highlighted the importance of participating in the elections. By voting and electing the best deputies, the people showed their agreement with the imam's message.

The elections were held at a time when every corner of Islamic Iran was the target of bombs and missiles, constantly threatened by the criminal Iraqi regime. Under such war conditions and the constant threats of the Zionist enemy, a reality was clarified: the people understand the importance of the Majlis. These threats only motivated the people to participate more extensively in the elections.

With their participation the people once again thwarted yet another sinister objective of the world-devourers who entertained hopes of keeping the people away from the arena of the revolution and breaking their steely bonds with Islam's social-political ideals. The people's participation in the elections under the country's special conditions increases deputies' responsibilities to their voters. The Majlis should act as the nation's eyes and ears in all the country's affairs. This duty derives from the determination and desire of the people and therefore should be implemented in all the country's affairs. Also, the record of activities of the people's deputies in the Majlis manifests the people's presence in all social-political and other areas.

Each act by the deputies, supported by the great strength of the nation, should be aimed at fulfilling the people's ideals and values and answering the needs and problems of society. All this manifests the importance of the lofty mission of the Majlis and, as a result, the deputies; and at this sensitive juncture in our country's history—which is a destiny-making test for the nation and its officials—the difficult task of managing affairs lies on the shoulders of those chosen by the people. Their goals should be the preservation of the interests of the majority of the people and the greatest possible fulfillment of the country's potential.

More than 250 deputies have been elected now, and we have the majority needed to open on time the third Majlis on 28 May. This session will include experienced deputies and newcomers with new political and economic outlooks. The (?face) of the new Majlis differs from former sessions because deputies come to the Majlis now with a fuller understanding of the imam's social and economic (?directives). Also, in the election campaigns these deputies declared themselves defenders of Mohammedan Islam, and they listed as a top priority defending the deprived, supporting rule by the oppressed, and rejecting American-style Islam.

Therefore, the people's expectations from the third Majlis greatly exceed those from past sessions. It is hoped that the deputies will do their best to realize the lofty ideas of the imam, as stated in the revolution's charter. The deputies of the second Majlis session were practically unable to implement the imam's directives at the beginning of the second Majlis session calling for defending the deprived and the oppressed. This fact doubles the responsibility of the deputies of the third Majlis.

Therefore, all efforts of this session should be aimed at establishing rule by the oppressed and eliminating oppression of the deprived. Now, with their participation in the third Majlis session elections, the people have elected their deputies. Certainly they have used the best criteria from the revolution's charter in the process so as to achieve a comprehensive Majlis [words indistinct] velayat-e faqih which can take effective and great steps toward the country's [words indistinct] and to score success in efforts to achieve Islamic social justice.

Iraqi Opposition Leader Urges Continued Struggle

LD1705135088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] As our country's dedicated, Muslim people were holding 'Id al-Fitr prayers, a large group of our Iraqi brothers and sisters resident in Tehran held their 'Id al-Fitr prayers as well. As in past years, the ceremonies were led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyid Muhammad Baqir Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

According to a Central News Unit report, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim offered his congratulations on the auspicious occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. While doing so, he touched on the need to fight aggression and domination by the forces of world arrogance and their lackeys, such as Saddam's regime. He also discussed that regime's plans to hold a conference in Baghdad entitled: Appraising Ways of Imposing Peace on the Islamic Republic. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim noted that the best and shortest way to a fair and honorable peace lies in Saddam's removal from power.

Stressing the point that a fair peace is impossible unless the wishes of Iraq's Muslim people are taken into account, he declared: Iraq's Muslim people have taken up arms against Saddam's regime, and they do not accept its sovereignty. The pagan Ba'thist regime has slaughtered their ulema and leaders and destroyed thousands of villages, subjecting some of them to chemical bombings, killing men, animals, and plants.

In another part of his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim described America's military interference in the Persian Gulf in support of Saddam's regime. He condemned the various aggressive actions of the United States, including the disruption of Iran's radar system in preparation for attacks by aircraft of the aggressor Iraqi regime against tankers carrying Iranian oil.

At the end of his speech, Hakim called on all Iraqi brothers to recognize their responsibilities under the current circumstances, continue their struggle against arrogance, and join the ranks of the mujahidin who are now fighting against Saddam's criminal regime.

UN Delegation Sends Note on Toxic Gas Use

NC1805060488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations has sent a note to the UN secretary general calling for the implementation of Articles 1 and 5 of UN Security Council Resolution No 612 in order to impose international sanctions on Iraq if it uses chemical weapons again.

The Central News Unit reports that the note emphasizes the Islamic Republic's lasting commitment to observe all international principles and regulations, particularly the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning chemical weapons. The note warns international society of the threat stemming from the extensive and diversified use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime.

In the note, the Islamic Republic's delegation also regrets the fact that the Iraqi regime was not named in the text of Resolution No 612 as the perpetrator of the crime of using chemical weapons in Halabjah, and condemns the Security Council for its unjust approach to the Halabjah crime. The note adds that because of this, not only have no spectacular efforts been made to end Iraq's chemical attacks, but Iraq has actually been given a free hand.

The note calls on international society to take steps to ensure that if there is any violation of these principles and regulations, particularly the 1925 Geneva Protocol and UN Security Council Resolution No 612, a full delegation of chemical warfare experts should be sent to the requesting country immediately and effective collective and punitive measures be taken against the violator.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Towns Hit With Chemical Bombs

LD1705181288 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violating the airspace of Sardasht border town in Azarbayijan Bakhtari Province, dropped chemical bombs on three nearby villages at 09:15 GMT Tuesday.

Over 60 civilians of Molla-Sheikh, Bazliyeh [placenames as received] and another village were injured, some seriously in the savage bombings. There are some women and children among the injured. Some houses were also destroyed in the attack.

Rescue teams and anti-chemical units were despatched to the bombed villages and immediately began treating the injured and decontaminating the region.

At least 100 civilians in the predominantly Kurdish Province of Irbil, northern Iraq, were martyred and many more wounded in Iraqi chemical attack during the past few days.

On March 18, Iraqi warplanes chemically bombed the liberated town of Halabjah martyring over 5,000 innocent Kurdish people and maiming more than 7,000 others.

Communique No 3,205

LD1705162188 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Iranian jets heavily pounded troop concentration sites, strongholds and armoured equipment of Iraq's Seventh Corps in operational theater around Basra in six sorties today. All planes returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy.

The 3205th Joint Staff communique further added that Iranian fighter bombers reconnoitered 35 oil tankers, cargo vessels, boats, launches, tugboats and foreign warships during their rountine patrol mission carried out over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman Monday. Shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz were also under tight control by the Iranian navalcraft, it said.

In the battlefields, the communique said, Iranian artillery, tank and mortar fire over Iraqi positions and fortifications halted activities of enemy tanks in Qasr-e Shirin, Helaleh, Sar Dasht and Shiller operational regions, inflicting some casualties and losses on enemy troops. Exchange of artillery fire was somewhat more intense in Naft-e Shah and Sumar operational zones, it added.

Several Iraqi gun emplacements were destroyed and a number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded when their positions came under artillery fire of the Iranian Gendarmerie troops in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday.

Pakistan

MUSLIM Comments on India's Sikh 'Problem'

BK1405104488 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Sikh Issue: Ploy or Problems?"]

[Text] The ease with which the situation in the Indian state of Punjab has been allowed to deteriorate and the apparent inability of the authorities to do anything about it would obviously suggest Delhi's total failure to deal with the problem.

But, it also implies, and not without good justification, that the almost ineffective response of the Centre to the strife is part of a larger strategy that seeks to exploit the militancy of the Sikhs to its own benefit.

Otherwise, it does not somehow appear possible that India with its reputation of favouring a tough response would easily adopt a hand-wringing attitude that permits lawlessness of the level that is taking place in Punjab.

The storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984 by Indian troops took place at a time when the situation in the state was not half as bad as it is today.

In spite of almost daily bomb blasts, killings and the presence of "terrorists" in the Sikh shrine, Delhi's reaction is surprisingly sterile. It is unthinkable that the Centre has run out of ideas and the determination to contain the situation.

It is possible that the Indian Government prefers that the Sikh militants who are allegedly responsible for the anarchy would damage their own cause by their actions. It is an old ploy that has been used to discredit troublesome elements by allowing them to pursue their objectives at the cost of public peace.

The popular backlash in such circumstances achieves much more than what would be possible by forces of law and order. In Bangladesh, the failure of the Awami League to provide a good government made it very easy for the armed forces to seize power although the ruling party had been elected by a massive majority.

Perhaps, Delhi feels that the continued violence in the Punjab will lay the foundations for an ultimate successful action by the Centre with popular support. In the situation thus obtaining, the Khalistan demand would be crushed forever.

On the other hand, the strife in the border state also provides India with sufficient excuse for mounting a major diplomatic offensive against Pakistan and other quarters which are held to be "hostile". Almost as if it were an orchestrated exercise, the Indian leadership at all levels has started a campaign of vituperation against Pakistan, holding it entirely responsible for the situation in Punjab.

The accusations in recent times have been intense and often crossed the bounds of credulity. Internally, the Sikh upheaval helps to strengthen the Congress (I)'s position at a time when there is increasing pressure from the opposition for holding elections.

In the heavily-populated Hindi belt, where the Sikh trouble is not taken to kindly, the ruling party could hope to reap a rich harvest of support if it can prove that the Sikhs want to secede from India. With the general elections not too far off, Congress would need to have a handy issue like the Sikh secession to prove its own utility.

For Pakistan, which shares a common border with Punjab state, the deteriorating situation poses a serious threat. The collapse of law and order would mean a flood of refugees into Pakistan and a resultant heightening of Indian bellicosity. Delhi has already accused Islamabad of contributing to its difficulties in Punjab.

In the future, it could even use this excuse to create a confrontation involving the massing of troops on the border. Even if wisdom on both sides prevents a flare up, the damage that would be done to any understanding between the neighbours would be irreparable.

Indian Paper Says Sind Front Organized

BK1705101588 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 12 May 88 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, 11 May (PTI)—The Save Sind Front [Sind Bachao] will soon arrive on the scene in Pakistan's sensitive Sind Province, and nationalist leader Ghulam Murtaza Syed will have a prominent role.

Mr Syed, the leader of the separatist Jiye Sind movement, will lead a rally of various political parties on 20 May to fan the passion of unity among Sindhis. According to reports received here, the Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto, the Awami National Party of Mr Wali Khan, the National People's Party of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the Pakistan National Party of Ghaus Baksh Bizenjo, and the Sind-Baluch Front of Mumtaz Ali Bhutto will participate in the rally. Formation of the Save Sind Front will be formally announced on this occasion.

Organizers of the front have prepared a four-point plan to pressure the authorities to prevent outsiders from infiltrating into the province, stop construction of new military cantonments in the province, and secure the release of political prisoners. The 20 May rally is a significant effort to unite Sindhis and give a new twist to the province's politics.

More than 500 lives have been lost in the last 2 years in the continuing confrontation between Muhajirs [Indian migrants] and Pathans in major parts of Karachi. A Beirut-like situation has developed in this city of 8 million due to illegal arms and heroin trafficking.

Sri Lanka

Indian Troops Seal TELO Office, Arrest 25

BK1805073988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0727 GMT 18 May 88

[Text] Colombo, May 18 (AFP)—Indian troops have sealed the office of a Tamil rebel group in northern Sri Lanka and arrested 25 of its members, a rebel spokesman said Wednesday.

The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) office in Mannar town was sealed and the members arrested Tuesday, a TELO spokesman said by telephone from the neighbouring Vavuniya town, 254 kilometres (159 miles) north of here. He gave no reason for the action. The Indian High Commission (embassy) here could not confirm the report.

The TELO is one of five major Tamil groups which laid down arms under a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

IPKF Kills 4 'Terrorists,' Captures 14

BK1705111888 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Four LTTE terrorists were killed and 14 apprehended in IPKF operations in the northern and eastern regions last Monday. Three IPKF soldiers were also wounded when LTTE terrorists ambushed an IPKF mobile patrol in Jaffna.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that when the IPKF mobile patrol was ambushed, the Indian soldiers had counterattacked, killing one terrorist. The troops also seized a hand grenade and an AK-47 rifle magazine and a cyanide capsule.

In Batticaloa, the Indian troops raided an LTTE hideout and seized several arms and ammunition.

Liberation Front Kills 12; Suspects Arrested

BK1805083588 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0730 GMT 18 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 18 (LANKA PUWATH)—Thirty suspects were arrested yesterday in a massive joint security forces operation to track down the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] hit squads responsible for a series of 12 killings in the Southern Province during the last one week, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

Among the victims in the Matara and Tangalle Districts since last Tuesday have been a teenaged girl, two police constables, a homeguard, a private body guard, and two provincial council candidates. Five of them were killed in a raid on the home of a UNP provincial council candidate at Lenama village, five miles from Akuressa town in the Matara District, Piyadasa Abeywickreme.

Official sources said that although the gang of about 20 JVP members armed with automatic weapons had planned to kill Mr Abeywickreme, he had been forced to turn back on his way home from Akuressa due to a collapsed culvert on the road. Hence, he was not at home at the time of the attack.

Other victims were a gramsevaka [village volunteer] of Ranna of Tangalle, a medical practioner of Galle, who was the provincial council candidate of the United Socialist Alliance, a trader from Hambantota, a UNP provincial council candidate at Katargama, a Gramadoya Mandalaya [village awakening board] chairman in the south, and a resident in the Monergala District in south east Sri Lanka.

Ajinadasa [JVP leader] and 98 others had been apprehended before the lifting of proscription on the JVP [words indistinct]. Hence, the JVP had brought a four-man hit squad from other areas in the south for the murder of late district minister for Galle, G.V.S.de Silva; Dr K.S.N. Fernando, a United Socialist Alliance candidate at Ratgama in the Galle District; and their attack on the soldier guarding a detainee at the Kerapitiya government hospital in Galle.